

(d) whether Government proposes to provide additional funds to the States with special status including Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines there is no provision for granting special status to a State for Rural Water Supply Schemes in order to solve problems of drinking water. No formal proposal has been received from any State Government including Maharashtra seeking grant of special status for Rural Water Supply Schemes in order to solve problems of drinking water.

However, at the end of financial year, based on the unspent balance of funds available and the request of the State Governments showing good spending capacity, this Ministry releases the third installment / additional funds of the NRDWP.

Providing safe drinking water in Bihar

†27. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to provide safe drinking water in the interest of general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of arrangements made by Government till now to provide safe drinking water in backward States like Bihar, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Rural Drinking Water is a State subject. This Ministry is exerting joint efforts with States towards providing every rural household, a minimum of 40 liters per capita per day (LPCD) of safe drinking water on sustainable basis under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States including Bihar by providing them with technical and financial assistance under this scheme. States are vested with power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to select, design, approve, execute and monitor drinking water supply facilities for providing safe drinking water to their rural populace. Every year between February and April Annual Action Plan (AAP) meetings are held with the Departments of the State Governments dealing with rural drinking water supply, wherein the progress achieved under different components of NRDWP are reviewed and targets for the next financial year are fixed. The physical and financial progress of NRDWP is also monitored in National / Regional / State level review meetings, conferences and video-conferences. Officers of the Ministry are also deputed to States to make field visits and review the progress of implementation. Further, Area Officers are nominated for all States and they participate in the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committees (SLSSC) so as to ensure that the project proposals are as per the mutually agreed Action Plan. Monitoring of drinking water supply to the rural population is a dynamic and continuous process.

Under NRDWP, funds are released to the States and not the districts. District-wise allocation / release of funds are made by States.

The Ministry has also prepared a strategic plan to provide safe drinking water to 90% of the rural population of the country through piped water supply schemes by the year 2022, subject to availability of funds.

Contaminated drinking water in rural districts

28. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural districts where drinking water is contaminated with arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate and salinity along with the number of people residing in the water quality affected areas;

(b) what are the ill effects of consumption of contaminated water along with the number of persons died during the last three years due to consumption of contaminated water;

(c) the details of remedial measures taken to address the serious problem of quality of water; and

(d) the steps taken to provide safe and pure drinking water in water quality affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) As reported by the State Governments into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as