

(b) whether it is also a fact that the current coal stock accretion at the power utilities is the highest in four years;

(c) whether accumulating coal stocks is risky as they are combustible, pose environmental hazard and lose quality if left exposed for long; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) Coal stock at Power House end had been 34.94 Million Tonne (MT) at the end of April, 2016 as against the stock of 29.76 MT at the end of April, 2015. Coal stock at Power Stations end as on 31.03.2016 had been 38.87 MT, the highest in the last four years.

(c) and (d) Long term exposure of coal stock is prone to heating and loss of coal quality. However, coal stock at Power station end which was 38.87 MT at the end of the 2015-16 has now reduced to the level of 31.39 MT as on 19.07.2016. This coal stock is sufficient for 23 days as against the normative stock requirement of 21 days. Further, these power plants receive coal on daily basis and consume it based on their daily requirement in line with their generation schedule. Hence, the coal stock is not static and is not kept/stored for a long time. The coal stock position has shown a depleting trend during 2016-17, as given below:

Sl. No.	Coal stock as on	Coal stock (MT)
1	31.03.2016	38.87
2	28.04.2016	35.92
3	31.05.2016	32.65
4	30.06.2016	30.51

**Providing safe drinking water to people in rural areas**

713. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many States are there in the country which have villages with a population of 1,000 or more where there is no safe drinking water and the villagers have to go miles to fetch safe drinking water;

(b) what plans Government has to provide safe drinking water to every villages in the country and by when; and

(c) whether Government would consider tying up with NGOs who are into providing safe drinking water to people in rural and remote areas, for speeding up the process of providing safe drinking water where it is not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) Rural Water Supply is a State Subject. However, under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides financial and technical assistance to State Governments for rural drinking water supply. States Governments are competent to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. This Ministry maintains data for drinking water supply in terms of habitations and not village population wise. Further, as per the Census 2011, 22.1% of the rural households have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 500 meters in rural areas.

(b) The Ministry has 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. States have been advised to prioritize coverage of all arsenic & fluoride affected rural habitations with surface water based piped water supply schemes as the permanent & sustainable solution. States have also been advised to set up Community Water Purification plants as a short-term measure to provide at least 8-10 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe water for drinking & cooking purpose in all remaining arsenic & fluoride affected rural habitations by March, 2017, subject to availability of funds.

(c) Under NRDWP, State Governments are vested with the power to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. This Ministry under NRDWP neither releases funds directly to any Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) nor there is such proposal under consideration of this Ministry.

#### **Providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities**

714. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many people in the country did not get safe drinking water in 2015 and how many of them in urban areas;

(b) what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) by when Government expects to overcome it;