

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for keeping the matter pending;
- (c) whether the Central Government proposes to transfer the said Defence land for the Metro Rail Project in Bengaluru; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):
(a) and (b) No, Sir. The initial request seeking transfer of defence land for construction of Bangalore Metro Rail Project-Phase-II, at Langford Town Station, Vellara Junction Station and MG Road Station was made to Ministry of Defence *vide* their letter dated 30.11.2016.

However, on 27.12.2017 a change in alignment and area of defence land required for these three metro stations was conveyed by the State Government to the Ministry of Defence.

Subsequently on 11.08.2018, a proposal on change in location with respect to Langford Town Station was received in the Ministry of Defence.

As the proposal received by the Ministry of Defence in respect of Bangalore Metro Rail Project has undergone numerous changes as brought out above, action has been taken by the Ministry based on the latest proposal received through the State Government.

(c) and (d) The proposals for defence lands required by State Government of Karnataka for Bangalore Metro Rail Project have been deliberated upon in meetings between the Ministry of Defence and the Government of Karnataka. Lands for public infrastructure projects are made available by Ministry of Defence on the principle of Equal Value Land being made available by State Governments or payment of land value by entities which do not own land as in the case of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd.

Providing safe drinking water to habitations

*14. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that water in 116 habitations in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh is affected with Fluoride;

(b) if so, the details of special efforts the Ministry is making to ensure that safe drinking water is provided to these habitations; and

(c) the details of schemes being implemented with physical targets and achievements to provide drinking water in such habitations/villages during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 29.01.2019, 111 habitations are affected by fluoride in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme; National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, operate and maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for providing safe drinking water to water quality affected areas on priority.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with the recommendation of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India had released ₹ 1,000 crore in March 2016 to affected states for commissioning of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) and last mile connectivity of piped water supply schemes. Out of which, ₹ 21.26 crore has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh for installing Community Water Purification Plants in fluoride affected habitations. As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as on 29.01.2019, 325 Community Water Purification Plants in 325 fluoride affected habitations have been installed.

In addition, the Ministry had launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22.03.17 to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 arsenic/fluoride affected rural habitations in a span of 4 years, subject to availability of funds. As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in IMIS of the Ministry as on 18.08.2016, 421 fluoride affected habitations have been considered under NWQSM. Out of which, 71 habitations are in Nellore district.

In Nellore district 58 affected habitations have been covered from various sources and in 03 habitations water quality of sources have improved geo-genically. During 2017-18, 19 schemes have been considered and as on 29.01.2019, ₹ 25.74 crore has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh under NWQSM.