

(a) whether Government is aware that only 60 per cent of total households in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh have tap connections; and

(b) if so, steps Government has taken/ proposes to take, to provide tapped water to the remaining households under 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) As reported by the State, as on 28.01.2020, around 60.89% rural households have tap connections in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. To enable every rural household in all States/ UTs including Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh, to have Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024, Government of India has launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

During the current financial year, an amount of ₹372.64 crore has been allocated to Andhra Pradesh under JJM, out of which ₹L51.73 crore has been released towards first instalment.

Public participation for river conservation

99. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 per cent of small rivers in the country have dried up;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all river basins must have resource mapping and community driven water harvesting and conservation structures must be created;

(c) whether public participation is a must for river conservation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) There are two types of rivers in the country viz: perennial and non-perennial rivers. Perennials are those rivers, in which water remains available throughout the year and non-perennial are those rivers which are rain-fed rivers and in which water flows only during the rainfall period. The flow in a river is a dynamic parameter and depends on many sub-parameters such as rainfall, its distribution duration and intensity in the catchment, health of catchment area, vegetation and withdrawals/utilization of water.

While reports by some experts have expressed concern about reduction in water flow in rivers, the annual average flow data maintained by Central Water Commission (CWC) for last 20 years for major/important rivers in the country does not indicate any significant reduction in water availability. However, as per CWC, the per capita annual water availability in the country has progressively reduced due to increase in population, urbanization, improved life style of people, etc.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing a nationwide programme of "National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM)" which includes mapping of aquifers, characterization of formation and development of aquifer management plans for sustainable development of ground water resources. Aquifer maps and management plans have been shared with the respective State Government agencies. Public Interaction Programs are being organised at grass root level for disseminating the tenets of the Aquifer Management Plans for the benefit of the stakeholders. Water being State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and management of ground water in the country is primarily the responsibility of States.

(c) and (d) Public participation is a very important component of river conservation/rejuvenation programme. Under National River Conservation Plan and Namami Gange programme; financial assistance is provided to the participating States for undertaking various conservation/rejuvenation activities including education and awareness among the local people, students and stakeholders about the value, functions and ecological services of rivers through awareness campaign/publication, pamphlets, video films, Yatra, slogan/drawing/essay competitions etc.

Progress of 'Jal Jeevan Mission'

100. SHRI T. G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to its flagship programme 'Jal Jeevan Mission' announced in the 2019 budget to provide piped drinking water to every household in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of the funds allocated and sanctioned to the State of Andhra Pradesh in 2019 budget, the details of the funds utilised by State Government; and

(c) the progress of the scheme, as on date?