

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) According to information available in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the Gulf of Kutch with a potential of about 12,000 MW, the Gulf of Cambay with a potential of about 3000 MW in Gujarat, and the Delta of Ganga in Sundarbans area of West Bengal with a potential of about 25 MW are three potential sites in the country for tidal power generation. A techno-economic feasibility report was prepared for a 900 MW capacity Kutch tidal power plant by CEA in 1987. However, the project could not be taken up owing to its high installation cost. After carrying out a feasibility study, a detailed project report for a 3 MW capacity tidal power plant proposed to be set up at Durgaduani Creek in Sundarbans area of West Bengal was prepared. A wave energy plant of 50 MW capacity has been installed by the Deptt. of Ocean Development at Vizhinjam in Kerala in 1991. The plant is being used as a national test facility to test wave power modules. The Deptt. of Ocean Development is also in the process of installing a 1 MW power plant at Tuticorin port in Tamil Nadu based on Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Technology.

(c) The other alternative sources of power, being promoted by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources include solar, wind, biomass, small hydro etc. and, at present, nearly 3600 MW of installed capacity has been set up on these renewable energy sources in the country.

Fluoride presence in drinking water in Madhya Pradesh

†2951. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has come to the notice after inspection of the ground water for the rural drinking water supply, that in many districts in Madhya Pradesh the water contains fluoride; and

(b) if so, the districts affected by the phenomenon and the arrangements being made by the State Government and Central Government for supply of drinking water in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASHEB M. K. PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) As per the informations furnished by Government of Madhya Pradesh, 22 districts namely: Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Mandla, Dindori, Seovani, Jhabua, Dewas, Shajapur, Bhopal, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Vidisha, Harda, Guna, Sagar, Jabalpur, Balaghat, Dhar, Ujjain, Mandsore and Neemach are affected with presence of fluoride in ground water.

Rural Water Supply is a State subject. State Government implement schemes/projects on rural drinking water supply from their own resources.

The Government of India supplements their efforts to overcome the water crisis by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). With effect from 01.04.1998, powers have been delegated to State Governments to plan, approve and implement projects under ARWSP. Upto 15% of ARWSP funds are to be earmarked by the State Governments for sanction of projects under Sub-Mission Programme for providing safe drinking water free from brackishness, fluorides, excess iron etc. State Government have been repeatedly requested to sanction more and more such projects to provide safe drinking water to the rural inhabitants.

As reported by the State Government, under Sub-Mission programme of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, work is in progress to provide safe drinking water from alternative sources and by treating the contaminated water to 1036 villages and 52 majras in the above districts at an approved cost of Rs. 8944.00 lakhs. The cost is shared by Government of India and the State Government on 75:25 ratio.

Between 1994—98, the Government of India had sanctioned five Sub-Mission Projects for providing safe drinking water to quality affected habitations of Madhya Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 7091.10 lakh, out of which Rs. 5318.31 lakh is the Government of India share. Out of the Government of India share, Rs. 2984.80 lakh has been released to the State Government so far.

Finalisation of Rural Development proposals according to prescribed norms

2952. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Members of Parliament are not involved while various project proposals of his/her constituency under PM's Gramin Sadak Yojana, are finalised by Zila Parishads violating the prescribed guidelines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and