

now he has increased it to Rs. 108 crore and I think there will be no constraint of funds for the development of Indian System of Medicine in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: MR. Speaker, Sir, many incurable diseases can be cured by Ayurvedic System of Medicine. The Government is also serious to encourage this system. But when the question of appointing doctors of Allopathy and Ayurveda in the same Department arises the salary of Allopathic doctor is fixed at Rupees four thousand and the Ayurvedic doctor, Rupees two thousand only. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it will make efforts to remove this anomaly so as to encourage Ayurvedic System of Medicine?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, definitely the Government would look into this aspect.

National Drinking Water Authority

*143. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Drinking Water Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely composition, powers and functioning of the Authority;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover entire waterless areas in the country under various schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA) (a) to (c). the proposal to set up a National Drinking Water Authority for rural areas in the country is under consideration.

(d) It is proposed to supply safe drinking water to every habitation in the country.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

According to the information available, there were 1,17,429 habitations as on 01.04.1995 which were not covered with a public source of safe water supply. In the current year, the target is to cover 55,996 of these habitations and the remaining 61,433 are proposed to be covered by 15th August, 1997.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today, crores of people are deprived of drinking water facility in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what norms have been fixed by the Government in regard to drinking water and what is the per-capita use of water as per the norms fixed and further, how many people are still deprived of drinking water facility?

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has asked, there are 13 lakh habitations in our country, out of them, in eight lakh habitations full arrangements have been made to provide drinking water. However, there are four lakh such villages where per-capita supply of water is less than forty litres. This is one problem. But another problem is of quality also in 1,40,000 habitations where arrangements for supply of drinking water have been made the hon. Prime Minister drew our attention towards this and he reviewed the functioning of whole department on 4th July and directed that wherever there is quality problem that should be solved immediately. This problem mainly exist in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and it is with regard to fluoride. Therefore, department is making all the efforts to remove defects in water there and to improve the quality of drinking water. Government is trying to provide safe drinking water in 1,40,000 habitations. It has been said by this Department in the meeting with the Prime Minister that the State Government are not utilising central allocation honestly. Therefore, an Authority may be set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. All the programmes should be reviewed from time to time by that Authority. Chief Ministers should be made members of that Authority. Since it is the responsibility of State Governments, they should be hold responsible for shortcomings. But we are trying to remove those shortcomings in the programmes.

SHRI RABI RAY: My question was in regard to norms prescribed for quality of water.

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: We get the water tested from time to time and ascertain whether fluoride and arsenic are there in water. If these two contents are not in the water

then it is considered as safe water. Experts have made a comprehensive survey in this regard all over the country and have told that the supply of water which has been made in 1,40,000 habitations, is not good from quality point of view. Therefore, the defects should be removed.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir with your permission, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that he has not replied to my question.

[English]

Drinking water is defined as safe if it is free from biological contamination (quinea worm, cholera, typhoid) and chemical contamination (excess of fluoride, brackishness, excess of iron, arsenic, nitrate).

[Translation]

This is your criterion. Please tell this House as to how many habitations have not been provided drinking water, then I will ask another question:

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: The Government has set up laboratories in different States for testing water. The quality of water is tasted in these laboratories. Only then we come to about the defects. We are taking measures to make the water free from contamination. We have sent a team to Rajasthan and Gujarat to ascertain that how the water can be made free from contamination. I would like to tell the hon. member that laboratories have been set up in the States to test the water.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, My earlier question has not been answered properly. I would like to know as to how many State Governments are using desalination plant and how many State Governments are not using it. Where desalination plant is not available, safe drinking water cannot be provided. I would like to know as to what action has been taken by the Sub-commission set up by Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission during the last 2-3 years to provide safe drinking water? I would like to tell the hon. Health Minister that lakhs of people die every year for want of safe drinking water. Lakhs of people become victims of many diseases like cholera etc. due to lack of safe drinking water. I would like to know the number of people who die of these diseases due to non-availability of safe drinking water... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: At present we do not have figures in this regard. I would like to tell the House that our Prime Minister take full interest in this matter and he has

directed that the contamination, wherever it is detected, may be removed.....

(Interruptions)

I would like to tell this House that we have in identified 4858 villages in Andhra Pradesh, 2413 in Gujarat and 14643 villages in Rajasthan where contamination has been detected. The Government is getting the water tested in the laboratories in all these States. At the same time, arrangements are also being made to make the water free from contamination. Our Prime Minister has taken a decision that in the 50th year of independence by 15 August, 97 the Government will provide drinking water to all the villages in the country where drinking water is not available at present and contamination will be removed wherever it has been detected. Arrangements will be made for one source of water and toilet in the Primary School of every village. The Ministry has chalked out this programme and upto 15th August, 1997 we will be able to solve this problem. (Interruptions)

SHRI RABI RAY: Sir, I seek your protection, my question was that desalination plant.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Desalination Plant and water purification Plant are two different things.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: I am asking the same that in how many States is has not been done.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you have the information, give it, or, collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: I do not have this information at present.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member just want to know the number.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very difficult for a Minister of Central Government to have information about the number of villages in which water purification plants have been installed. You collect this information and give it to the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

DR. JAGANANTH MISHRA: Detailed information will be given later on but at this time, I am not in a position to give full information because all the states have not completed it. That is why we will review this programme by setting up a commission under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. We will collect information from all the States.

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY: Mr Speaker, Sir there is a problem of Fluorosis in many States, particularly in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. This problem is persistent for the last several years. Because of the marine fish culture, another problem has emerged in the shore areas and the water sources of some of the villages are being affected with salinity. Such villages are deprived of the proper drinking water facilities. Keeping in view this persistent problem, the Hon Minister is purported to have stated that within two years safe drinking water will be supplied to the villages that are not being covered. It has been stated that about one and a half lakh...

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question. We have hardly covered one-and-a-half question in 45 minutes.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY: I would like to know how many schools are without proper drinking water facility?

MR. SPEAKER: This kind of information is not likely to be there with the Minister. I am not allowing it.

SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY: I am asking a pointed question. I would like to know how many villages in Andhra Pradesh will be covered in the next two years?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may get the information from the State Government and give it to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given any information about Madhya Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a State-wise question.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am asking a pointed question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the level of ground water has gone down in Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh and the disease Fluorosis has spread in many districts. State administration has prepared a scheme for 9 districts and sent for your approval. I would like to know as to whether you will give approval to this scheme for the prevention of Fluorosis?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you have the information, give it, otherwise, collect it and send it to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: In respect of Madhya Pradesh, I would like to say that I had not read the complete list and thus the name of the State was not mentioned. I had read about the list of three States only. We have information about 200 villages of Madhya Pradesh and measures are being taken for prevention of Fluorosis disease.

MR. SPEAKER: One minute please. The hon. Member has asked question about a specific area.

DR. JAGANANTH MISHRA: At present that information is not available with me.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO):: I would like to give some good news to the House in regard to Fluorosis. The problem which has been dogging many many villages in many States for many years, is now at an end. We have found a remedy for it.

They have prepared a chemical or some substance through which water is passed and on the other side defluorinated water comes out. Now, the only difficulty is about the cost. If you take the whole village and have a big reservoir and all that, it is going to cost much more than what the village or the village people can afford. So, what they have done is- I have just seen the model which has been finalised- there is a small jar-like thing which has got an inlet and an outlet and in between, that material is put. This is for drinking purposes. If there is Fluorine water for bathing and other things, it may still be used but only for the sake of drinking purposes defluorinated water should be available, and that is what is being planned. That jar, now according to their estimate, costs about Rs.1500 and they say if they do it in

bulk the price can come down. I have told them- for the whole country I have given these instructions_ let us first concentrate on Fluorosis, wherever it is, whether in Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh. Let us first see- as we have done with guinea worm, be changing the step wells into draw wells- let us first get our drinking water rid of Fluorosis. This is being attempted, Sir What is needed is, more and more families to be given this and they have to be told how to change the filter and how to do a few things. It means more money, but we will find more money for this. Since we have given it the first priority and within the next two years we have to complete this, we will find the money and get this done. What I am trying to say is, the technical problem which was in fact presenting the real challenge, has been solved.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr Speaker, Sir the figures that have been given to us, not only today but time and time again on the floor of the House, relate to the number of habitations whose requirements have been fully satisfied, partially satisfied and those where nothing has been done at all. I beg to say, Mr Speaker, Sir that the second category of partial satisfaction is a very misleading category. It misleads the House.

It misleads the House because if in a village there are, say, a thousand people living, and if even one single source of safe drinking water is available in that village, the hon. Minister will claim that that habitation is covered, while it is not. Therefore, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is- not in terms of number of habitations but in terms of the population of the country- what is the percentage of population in the country in the rural areas today which has access to regular supply of safe potable water, and what is the percentage of population which does not have such access, and whether, as the hon. Prime Minister has pointed out, those who do not have access are likely to be covered within the next two years.

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said in the beginning itself that we have already defined that according to requirement 40 liters of safe drinking water....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: You are talking about village while I am asking about individual requirement..

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: I am talking about average requirement of the whole village. The average requirement of safe drinking water for an individual is 40 liters per day. The

second category is of persons who are getting water less than 40 litres, and the third category of people is those who are getting less than 10 litres of water. Under the present programme we have decided to provide 10 to 40 litres of safe drinking water and we are doing that also. So far out of the total 13 lakh habitations only 8 lakh have been covered under this programme. Out of these also 4 lakh habitations are not getting wages according to their requirement, we are trying to provide water to them. At first we are going to supply safe drinking water to 1 lakh 40 thousand habitations. The other 4 lakh habitations for which we have started the supply of safe drinking water are not getting the required quantity. To such villages we are giving second priority and we have prepared the programme on the basis of per capita average.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I seek your protection. I asked for the percentage of population but he is giving only the percentage of villages.

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not have the information.....

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: In relation to the population of the country arrangements regarding safe drinking water are being made for 52 crore people.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Half the population, Sir is not covered.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Hon. Speaker, Sir the basic necessity of mankind is drinking water. There are two kinds of problems which we are facing now. One is the ground water that is available for drinking is either not consumable or unhygienic, and the other problem is we have to process the water for deflourination and other things through purification plants. The NRWS Schemes are doing well in the villages. It has been taken up on a large scale, I think and it is going on in a phased manner. But the worry now is, the metropolitan cities and the more concentrated townships have not been covered under this scheme.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, and the Minister concerned to this problem. As we all know, it has been 10 to 12 years since the previous census had been taken. Going by the 1991 census, we have to have some permanent sources of drinking water in the metropolitan cities and Corporation areas where breaking up of

epidemics like gastroenteritis and cholera has become a regular feature.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question and say, "What are you going to do for the people living in the metropolitan cities?"

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: May I know from the hon. Minister and the Government whether some schemes for drinking water supply in the thickly populated areas like metropolitan cities...

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly what I have asked on your behalf.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Thank you Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you going to do to supply drinking water to the people living in the metropolitan cities?

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: This issue does not pertain to Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment. This is the subject of Urban Development Ministry.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: I would like to know it from the hon. Prime Minister, Sir.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (PUNE): They should have considered it, Sir, as you have asked the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I do not supply them information.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is aware of the fact that in several States, the facilities required for chemical test of water samples are not available, though the laboratories have been set up there. Whether in future you will ascertain that drinking water would be chlorinated before the beginning of summer and rainy season?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand that this question has mainly to be handled by the State Government. You are

burdening the Central Government with everything. They plan and they give the money. It is for the State Government to decide.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will they give the money?

MR. SPEAKER: That is right. Is the money required for these activities available with you? And, if so, are you going to give it to them?

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: It has been estimated that Rs. 18,000 crores are required to provide water to the entire rural areas and to make it hygienic.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: How much funds will the Government release? put aside the figures, atleast my question should be answered.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have not asked a good question, yet you are speaking again and again.

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the National Water Policy was formulated by National water Resources Council in 1987 giving top priority to drinking water. In that Policy, it was suggested that all irrigation projects must invariably have a drinking water component.

Here I would like to ask two questions (a) whether this policy was implemented accordingly during the last eight years. If so, what are the achievements? And (b) whether the Government have conducted a nation-wide survey to find out or to identify dependable sources of drinking water. If so, what are the achievements; what are the outcomes? If there is any outcome, what action the Government is taking?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we get 85 per cent water from underground and remaining 15 percent from the surface. Therefore, in the context of National Water Policy, which has been referred to be the hon. Member, the Government has felt that since, this is a matter of water resources and it comes under the purview of State

Governments. and State Governments are not able to utilise many water as per the National Water Policy. In places the level of surface water is receding, therefore, National Water Policy should be properly implemented and water should be provided. Recently, a meeting of Irrigation Ministers has been convened by the Ministry of Water Resources. In this meeting, we are going to put before the irrigation Ministers the issues like shortcomings in water supply on the part of our Ministry and difficulties in water supply caused due to inadequate or faulty irrigation schemes.

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: What about my second question? I wanted to know whether any nation-wide survey has been conducted.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good question, a nice question which has to be answered at the national level. Is there any survey conducted to explore dependable sources of drinking water?

[Translation]

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: We do not have the information just now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it to him.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that contaminated water is the real cause of all the diseases in this country. If arrangements are made for pure water... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Paswan ji, you directly come to the question.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister. He was referring to drinking water again and again. As a matter of fact, a man dies after drinking water which is suitable for animals only. This is not merely a matter of drinking water. I would like to know in how many villages arrangements have been made for safe water, as has been asked by Vermaji. I think, there is not even a single village in which arrangements for safe water have been made.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Disallowed. That question has already been answered.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that we have 85% dependence on the underground water for drinking purpose. The question was asked about the survey conducted. Does the hon. Minister know that Space Department has carried out remote sensing survey all over the country for underground water?

Entire remote sensing survey was carried out to explore the availability of water and size of water reserve. I would like to know whether his Ministry will try to explore the underground water, wherever available by cooperating and coordinating with the Space Department and concern on those areas.

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Yes Sir, it is correct. I agree with it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The hon. Minister has replied to the questions today for the first time but I do not want to discourage him. However, the figures he is giving....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not forming part of the record.

(Interruption)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The statement given by the hon. Minister has no concern with the practical life and reality. Figures given by him in regard to the places of availability of water are manipulated. I would like to tell him that this work cannot be left at the mercy of the State Governments alone. Whether the Government will conduct any survey through any voluntary Agency to ascertain actual requirement of water and the number of areas and colonies where drinking water has been supplied so far. This apart, whether the Government will chalk out any action plan on the basis thereof?

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Survey has been con-

ducted and I would like to inform the House that there are mainly three phases for supply of water to the rural areas. In the year 1972, Indiraji had launched Accelerated Rural Water Programme. Thereafter, in 1986, Rajiv Gandhi set up a National Rural Water Supply Corporation. Now the present Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao's Government has got conducted a new survey. As the hon. Member desires, Prime Minister had directed to verify findings of all the earlier survey reports and to conduct a new survey on the basis of habitation. That survey was conducted by the Vice Chancellor of Madras University who is considered expert in this field. That survey was not got conducted through Government Agency. Instead, an expert committee was constituted for the purpose. I am giving information based on figures received in our Department on the basis of that survey.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated that the arrangements for drinking water are made on the basis of 85 per cent. Underground water and 15 per cent surface water. The hon. Minister has been the Chief Minister of Bihar. I think he is aware of it that the underground water and surface water in Dhanbad side, in Katrat and particularly in Jharia, is very much polluted. As he has said, I would like to know whether the Government will make any arrangement to provide drinking water to the people of Dhanbad district...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is disallowed.

[Translation]

You please sit down.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)***

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this is a matter of pity that the people in my village are not getting drinking water even after 50 years of independence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now there is no time for dissertation. Please put the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: The second thing is that the saline water of sea is moving towards the nearby villages. Will the hon. Minister make any arrangement to make available drinking water to the people living there by preparing any exclusive programme?

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: We have formulated a scheme for 163 such villages where the problem has been felt and we will conduct a survey in those villages. We will collect information separately about the coastal areas.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite sincere efforts made by the Government of India, the fact remains that there are still some areas which have acute drinking water problem and particularly the mining areas and the coal belt areas, where the Government of India is also directly involved and there, the fact is that however deep you go, that does not strike water. In such cases, only pipe water supply scheme will achieve the results. I want to know whether the Government of India will address itself to this problem and also coordinate among the public sector undertakings of the Central Government and the State Governments to find out the ponds, etc. and to supply pipe water in these areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTION

Discovery of Uranium

*142. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Atomic Minerals Division of Hyderabad has discovered uranium in the fractured controlled mineralisation in granite rocks;