

Out of 1000 villages there, people of around 700 villages are compelled to drink water containing fluoride. Till today the first phase of the work which was started five years back for the solution of this problem has not been completed. This was shown not only on Doordarshan but on foreign television network also. Today we are standing on the threshold of 21st century.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask question.

DR. PRABHA THAKUR : People are compelled to become humpbacked and disabled by drinking this water. This problem is very serious, and therefore, I would like to know from the Minister of Water Resources the time by which this problem will be solved and the steps he is taking on priority basis in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, for this purpose, we held the meeting of the State Secretaries and State Ministers. In that connection, we are making some exercise. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Manoranjan Bhakta.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Kindly allow half-an-hour discussion on this... (Interruptions).

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Sir, as you know, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the island territories in the country which is facing acute drinking water problem.

Now, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that it would be the responsibility of the State and the Central Government would supplement to the State. But so far as the Union Territories are concerned, it is the domain of the Central Government. What action have you taken in this regard ? It is because in your statement for all the three years you have mentioned that not a single rupee has been allocated. That is why, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister what programme, what action you are going to take for providing drinking water supply to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : If this is so, I will consider it.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Thank you Sir.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, problem of drinking water is acute in my Constituency Surendranagar. All our villages are facing shortage of water and the level of ground water is going down as a result of which the people have to dig deep wells for getting water. There is no other source of water. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This problem is acute for women, hence, they are being given a chance to put questions.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : When I went to my Constituency women raised this problem with tears in their eyes. They told that for digging ponds machines are required but we do not get those machines. If we can get bulldozer and other machines then we can collect rain water by digging ponds in villages. I would like to know from the government whether machines can be supplied by setting up some Machinery Department so that there is no water

problem in Gujarat ? Can such an arrangement be made and what is the policy of the government in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no provision for using such big machines for digging *talaabs*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale. Please ask your Supplementary straightaway, otherwise you will lose the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask as to how many people have been benefited under the I.R.D.P. Scheme till date ?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL : Sir, it is not related to this Question.

MR. SPEAKER : If the House is serious about the importance of this subject, we can have a Half-an-hour discussion on this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Revival of IISCO

*24. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for revival/modernisation of ailing Indian Iron and Steel Co. (IISCO) has been inordinately delayed causing significant cost escalation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the present status of the modernisation proposal for IISCO and details of the broad features of the plan proposal finalised, its economics implications and implementation schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO) was referred to BIFR in June 1994. Various schemes/proposals for revival and modernisation of IISCO were considered but could not be finalised due mainly to fund constraints. A proposal for modernisation of IISCO by utilisation of funds from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) is under consideration of the Government.

As IISCO has been referred to the BIFR, any scheme to be taken up for modernisation will have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

Review of Rural Development Schemes

*25. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

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

- (a) whether the Government have reviewed the rural development schemes scientifically and systematically;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for streamlining the rural development schemes so as to provide its maximum benefits to the rural people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT : (SHRI BABAGOUA PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

A scientific and systematic review of the programmes of this Ministry is being done through mechanisms such as, (a) Periodical Progress Reports, (b) Financial Returns (annually)/Release Procedures (c) Inspections, (d) Reviews and Monitoring by various Committees, Secretaries, Commissioners etc. at the State level as well as at the Central level, (e) Holding periodical meetings at Delhi with the State Secretaries, Commissioners, Project Directors and Chief Engineers, to review progress & secure feedback, (f) visits by area officer, (g) Concurrent Evaluation Reports and Standing Committees/Consultative Committees of the Parliaments; and (h) appointment of expert Committees/Groups to intensively and systematically review the programmes of the Ministry. The outcome of these review mechanisms and the feedback received, has been the re-designing and restructuring of the schemes from time to time to maximize intended benefits to the rural people.

The Government of India restructured and streamlined the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) with effect from 1.1.96 . The sub-schemes of JRY i.e. Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) were made independent and separate schemes. Now, JRY is being implemented as a separate scheme in the rural areas of the country. For better implementation and involvement of all the three levels of Panchayats 15% of JRY funds have been earmarked for intermediate level Panchayats. Now, the funds are allocated among the Zila Parishad/DRDA, block and village Panchayats in the ratio of 15:15:70. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), which was introduced with effect from 2nd October, 1993 in 1778 rural blocks of 261 districts in which the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was in operation, has now been extended to all the blocks of the country. The review mechanisms and feedback received have brought out into focus the need to further re-structure wage employment programmes to create better infrastructure and wage employment opportunities in the rural areas.

As regards the self-employment programmes, the recommendations of the Mehta Committee (1993) and Hashim Committee (1997) have brought out the need to restructure them by providing a definite objective of improving the family incomes of the rural poor as well as providing for flexibility of design at the grass-roots level to suit the local needs and resources and to merge the present self-employment programmes i.e. training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Development of Women and Children in Rural Area (DWCRA) and Ganga Kalyan Yojna (GKY) into the Integrated Rural Development Programme.

Tatkal Reservation Scheme

*26. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways have introduced Tatkal Reservation Scheme;
- (b) if so, the main objectives of the Scheme;
- (c) whether the scheme has been introduced for every train; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives of the scheme are to provide confirmed reservation at short notice to bonafide passengers and to discourage activities of "touts".

(c) and (d) The scheme has been presently introduced only in a few trains and will be progressively extended to other trains after taking into account demand pattern, operational constraints etc.

Third Stream of JRY

*27. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

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

- (a) whether third stream of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been launched since 1993-94;
- (b) if so, the programme taken up so far under this phase;
- (c) the names of districts particularly in Karnataka and Maharashtra which have been selected for this phase;
- (d) the allocation made during the last two years and current year; State-wise;
- (e) the performance of the implementation of the Scheme in each State during the above period; and
- (f) the details of target fixed for 1998-99 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGAU PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) Special and Innovative projects which aim at prevention of migration of labour, enhancing women's employment drought proofing as well as watershed and wastelands development etc. and projects which result in sustained employment generation are sanctioned under this scheme. There is no State/UT-wise allocation or fixation of annual targets under the Scheme. The projects received from the States/UTs are examined and approved by the Central Level Sanctioning Committee headed by the Secretary, Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation. The details of State/district-wise and year-wise projects sanctioned and implemented and progress made are in the enclosed Statement-I

- (f) No target is fixed under the Scheme for 1998-99.

Statement

Progress under Innovative JRY during 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Approved Total Cost	Approved Centre Share	Central Share Field. Till Date	Total Funds Available	Exp. Reported	% Age of Exp. Against Total Fund Available	% Age Against Total Proj. Cost	Major Activities	Physical
1	2									
	ANDHRA PRADESH									
1.	Construction of 6275 IAY Houses for SC/ST flood victims of Medaksarani in ANANTPUR Distt.	514.04	411.22	411.22	514.03	501.28	97.52	97.52	Houses (Nos.)	Completed - 3982 Under Progress-463
2.	Improvement of Eco-system by Semi-intensive sheep management leading to goatless in ANANTPUR Distt.	370.00	120.00	120.00	150.00	75.00	50.00	20.27	Shed Construction (Nos.) Distribution of 2000 units No. of beneficiaries	Completed -2000 1450 750
	BIHAR									
3.	Special Project for development for Fish culture in MADHUBANI Distt.	135.69	108.55	54.78	68.47	54.45	79.52	40.13	Houses Constructed (Nos.) Sanitary Latrines (Nos.) Link Road constructed (Nos.) Social Forestry (Hectt.)	20 Completed-3 1 2
4.	Housing and Income Generation Programme for primitive tribals of LOHARDAGGA Distt.	92.15	73.72	73.72	92.15	71.6	77.69	77.59	House constructed (Nos.) Solar Latrain distributed (Nos.) Open Wells (Nos.) Trees Planted (Nos.) Plantation Areas (Hectt.)	532 273 completed-4 6408 32.08
	HIAMCHAL PRADESH									
5.	Towards self reliance by 2000-A.D. in KANGRA Dist	200.00	160.00	160.00	200.00	142.69	71.35	71.34	Building Constructed (Nos.) Medicinal Plants (Hectt.) Floriculture (Fectt.)	2 11.88 7.17
	JAMMU & KASHMIR									
6.	Integrated Special Programme in KUPWARA, ANANTNAG, PULWAMA & BARAMULLAH	600.00	480.00	480.00	600.00	483.72	80.62	80.62	Houses constructed (Nos.)	1331
7.	The Comprehensive Sanitation Programme for Border Villages of J & K and SUCHETGARH Panchayat in Jammu & Kashmir	184.15	120.00	120.00	150.00	82.39	54.92	44.73	Sanitary Latrines Constructed (Nos.)	630