

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, at the moment I do not have the reply. [Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You send it to him in writing.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (e).

Water Testing Laboratories

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*286. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA
NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up water testing laboratories in each district in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have in the past sanctioned and set up both stationary and mobile laboratories for water quality surveillance;

(d) if so, the break-up thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the places in Orissa where such laboratories have already been set up and are proposed to be set up?

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Government propose to set up the Water Testing laboratory in each district in the country for regular monitoring of quality of drinking water in rural areas subject to the policy and outlays for Eighth Plan which are yet to be decided. The pattern of assistance for the laboratories will be decided after the Eighth Plan outlay is finalised by the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Statewise break-up of the mobile and stationary laboratories sanctioned in the past are given in the Annexure.

(e) In Orissa, Water Testing Laboratories have already been set up in Koraput (Rayagada), Mayurbhanj (Bharipada), Phulbani, Sambalpur, Ganjam (Behrampur) and Kalahandi (Bhawanipatna) districts. One mobile laboratory has also been provided to the State Government. 6 new laboratories have been approved for being set up in the districts of Balasore, Bolangir, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal and Sundergarh. In addition it is proposed to provide one mobile laboratory for Puri District.

ANNEXURE

S.No.	States/UTs	Stationary Laboratories Sanctioned and set up	Mobile Laboratories Sanctioned and set up
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
3.	Assam	6	1**
4.	Bihar	5	-
5.	Goa	1	-

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States/UTs</i>	<i>Stationary Laboratories Sanctioned and set up</i>	<i>Mobile Laboratories Sanctioned and set up</i>
6.	Gujarat	5	1
7.	Haryana	4	1**
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	3**
10.	Karnataka	10	-
11.	Kerala	3	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6	1
13.	Maharashtra	3	1
14.	Manipur	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	1	1
16.	Mizoram	1	1
17.	Nagaland	1	1
18.	Orissa	6	1
19.	Punjab	3	-
20.	Rajasthan	6	1
21.	Sikkim	1	1
22.	Tamil Nadu	5	1
23.	Tripura	1	1**
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7	1
25.	West Bengal	4	1**c
26.	A&N Islands	1	1**
27.	Chandigarh	-	-
28.	D&N Haveli	1	-
29.	Daman & Diu	1	-

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>States/UTs</i>	<i>Stationary Laboratories Sanctioned and set up</i>	<i>Mobile Laboratories Sanctioned and set up</i>
30.	Delhi	2	1
31.	Lakshadweep	1	-
32.	Pondicherry	2	-
<i>Others</i>			
1.	Indian Technology Research Centre, Lucknow.	-	-
2.	Shri Jayachomrajendra College of Engineering, Mysore.	-	1**
3.	Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur.	-	1
4.	All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.	-	1
5.	Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay.	-	-
ALL INDIA		96 (12 yet to be set up)	26 (9 yet to be set up)

Notes**Mobile**

** Yet to be set up

C For Mini-mission project in Midnapore District.

Stationary

Assam	:	4 laboratories sanctioned in March 1991 are being set up.
Karnataka	:	4 laboratories approved in July 1991 are being set up.
Pondicherry	:	1 laboratory at Karaikal approved in May 1991 are being set up.

Rajasthan

3 laboratories approved in March 1991 are being set up.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a serious problem of drinking water in the country. The Government has set up water testing laboratories but my question is related to the water supply in rural areas. There are so many institutions having laboratories for water testing. In villages and particularly in my area and in the tribal areas people drink extremely unsafe water. Water testing facilities provided to them recently are not sufficient. So I would like to know the basis of setting up of laboratories? If population and area is the basis, Koraput and Bastar are tribal districts having fairly large population, e.g., the population of Cuttack is 60 lakh but with all that the people are drinking unsafe water. What are the steps being taken by the Government to test the unsafe water? Will he reply in detail?

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far we have sanctioned 122 laboratories. Out of these, 96 laboratories are stationary and 26 are mobile. The State from which request to set up laboratories for testing the unsafe water is received, laboratories are sanctioned in that State.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: There are certain Mini Testing Laboratory Code areas also such as Meghalaya or there are certain areas prone to unsafe water. Mobile laboratories should be set up in such areas. Is there any scheme of the Government to set up mini laboratories in sub-division where water is dirty and saline or the tubewells supply unsafe water?

SHRI UTTAM BHAI H. PATEL: We are considering to implement the scheme in all districts in the Eighth Plan. For the time being we have got 26 mobile laboratories. We have received 36 new applications including 8 for mobile laboratories.

[*English*]**SHRI Y.S.RAJASEKHAR REDDY:** Sir,

in the recent past, a number instances have come which had resulted in breaking out of gastroenteritis and cholera epidemics in Andhra Pradesh. Not only that, even cases of pleurisy have detected. In other districts, where pleurisy was not there earlier, there, pleurisy have occurred.

In view of these problems Gastroenteritis, Cholera and pleurisy will the Minister consider opening of new laboratories in Andhra Pradesh? Right now, there are only three laboratories.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: The applications received from the State Government for setting up of laboratories are under consideration. We will sanction it after consideration.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the recent report that in West Bengal, some districts are having arsenic in the water deposits. If, so, whether, he will immediately take steps that in such districts at least laboratory facilities are established without delay?

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: If the State Government will send the application, we will definitely sanction it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will it not be sanctioned if the State Government does not send it?

MR. SPEAKER: It is sanctioned on the state Government's recommendations.

***SHRI GOVIND CHANDRA MUNDA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, the Minister has stated in his

*Translation of supplementary originally put in Oriya.

reply regarding the number of mobile laboratories set up in the country for water testing. But nothing has been done in my district Keonjhar in Orissa.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: In which language you are speaking?

[*English*]

SHRI GOVIND CHANDRA MUNDA: Oriya.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking all the three languages- Oriya, Hindi and English-mixing up all.

[*English*]

*SHRI GOVIND CHANDRA MUNDA: There are several villages in my State, where potable drinking water is not available. Provision of water testing laboratory is totally absent in my district Keonjhar where the water is being increasingly polluted on account of the discharge of the wastages by the factories set up in that district, I would like to know what steps Government is going to take to provide potable drinking water to my people?

[*Translation*]

AN HON. MEMBER: In which language he is speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked the question and the hon. Minister is replying.

[*English*]

If he has understood the question, I have no objection if he replies to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Though

I could not follow the whole thing, I may say about Orissa that there are six stationary laboratories and six laboratories have been sanctioned on the basis of new applications received in the beginning.

SHRI TARA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water pipe lines laid much earlier have cracked due to which the water from the sewerage also gets mixed up with the drinking water causing jaundice and cholera. May I know from the hon. Minister through you whether the State Government has got some policy to change the pipe lines so that safe drinking water is made available?

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, surely, it will be done.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water of Rihand reservoir is used in the eastern region of Mirzapur, Sonbhadra. He has already mentioned how much polluted water is there. Despite that the water testing laboratories have not been set up there. Ten lakh people living there are drinking polluted water. I would like to know through you, the time by which water testing laboratories would be set up there? In my area.

MR. SPEAKER: These are set up on the recommendations of the State Government.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: The report of the State Government has been received and a survey was also conducted, even then the laboratory was not set up. So I would like to know the time by which it would be provided.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you received the recommendations?

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: No, Presently, 30 applications are under consideration. Detailed information is being col-

lected from the State Government and the work would be done afterwards.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three stationary laboratories in Maharashtra out of which one is functioning. Is that enough? If not, the number of laboratories recommended by the State Government to the Central Government?

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, for the time being we do not have any new recommendations. We may consider those in case we receive any recommendations.

SHRI RAM NAIK: In the annexure there is a mention of stationary and mobile laboratories but the last item Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Bombay and Tarapur have been shown as mobile. There is so much of radiation and pollution in Tarapur and Bombay because of pollution due to atomic energy plant. So in order to prevent this radiation and pollution it is necessary to set up a laboratory which.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is their laboratory.....

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, it is mentioned that.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is a question of Atomic Energy which is concerning Margaret Alva.

[*English*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: No, no, that is not the problem. They have indicated it here.

MR. SPEAKER: I know it. You please put the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Has any suggestion about setting up such laboratory been to the Government by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. If so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This relates to drinking water. They have their own arrangement; they have a better arrangement than what is provided by them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Let him reply by saying, no.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: He is right but conduct a sample survey with the assistance extended to us by BARC. Our job is only that. Laboratories are not ours.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government sanctions it on the recommendations of the States Governments but in case of Union Territories, it is directly the responsibility of the Central Government as in the case of Andaman-Nicobar islands. There are other isolated islands also. Filtered water is supplied in towns while unfiltered water is supplied in villages. It has caused a disease in which the victim passes blood and loose motions and dies. Even now there is no treatment for this disease. I want to know from the hon. Minister specifically whether there is any proper provision with the Government for the filtration of drinking water in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about the laboratory.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Purification is done in the laboratory itself.

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking about filtration.

[*English*]

PROF. UMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Right now from the statement that has been provided by the Minister, it is understood that there are only three stationary laboratories sanctioned in the State of

Andhra Pradesh and there is no mobile laboratory. In the entire coastal Andhra Pradesh in view of the heavy floods and rains, in most of the villages the water is getting polluted and the sub-soil water is ingesting into the shallow wells and they are getting polluted, in most of the cases very increasing disreputable de-chlorinisation is being done.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question please.

PROF. UMAREDDY VENKAT-SWARLU: Will the Government consider providing mobile laboratories in the entire coastal region where the water is being polluted?

MR. SPEAKER: It is done on the recommendation of the State Government the Minister has already said that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Ghaziabad is a very big industrial area. A scheme was framed in 1972 to provide drinking water from Ganga Canal. Drinking water is not available there even now. There is no potable water except fresh water available in wells there. The Government has not been able to complete the scheme since 1972. May I know whether the Government is considering to do something in this regard in future?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not concern filtration, it is about laboratory.

[English]

It does not come out of this question.

Paper Plant in Punjab

*287. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone for a paper plant was laid at Goidwal in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to cancel the project and the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the time by which the work thereon is likely to start;

(d) whether many ancillary units have come up there after the laying of the foundation stone; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It is for the State Government of Punjab to take a decision in this regard.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The foundation stone of this paper plant was laid by Shri Rajiv Gandhi the then Prime Minister in 1987. It is somewhat heartening to note that the Government has not scrapped the project but it is indeed very disjuncting to know that nothing so far has been done for the last four years. It is unfortunate also to note that though the Punjab State has been under the President's rule for the last four years time and again and the Punjab budget has been presented in this House, the Government states that it is for the State Government to decide when the project will be started. I would like to know from the Government whether the conditions which motivated the Government at that time to start the project still prevail and whether it is a fact that the project report and blueprints were prepared. Also spend import of news print foreign exchange Rs. 400 crores what would be the/saving of foreign exchange if this project comes up.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is true that the foundation of this project was laid by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Member's argument