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Title: Need to provide safe drinking water in the country.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (KALAHANDI): Drinking water or potable water is water of sufficiently high quality that can be consumed or used with low risk of immediate or long-term harm. Several parts of India are facing an immense challenge to meet the basic needs of water. One of the impediments in meeting the national goal of 'Health For All' is the inability of successive governments in providing safe drinking water to all villages and settlements in the country. Rivers which once were source of drinking water and irrigation have turned into muddy water. The same is processed but still it is not safe to be used for drinking purpose.

Though, rural water supply is a state subject, considering the magnitude of the problem, the Central Government has introduced several schemes like the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojna (PMGY). The ARWSP is currently implemented through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. Though there has been an enormous flow of funds to the programme, but the achievements have been meagre.

Even in the capital city of Delhi, Municipal Corporation is supplying non-drinkable ground water in West Delhi and charging for that. People are forced to buy drinking water.

Besides, a number of water supply systems have failed due to poor operation and maintenance. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to implement a participatory, demand-driven approach instead of a centrally managed scheme.