

with the concerned bodies for the early implementation of the recommendations involving them. Certain recommendations are already under implementation and these would be scrutinised and reviewed to ensure adequate and full implementation. There are recommendations involving amendments to the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. Action is under way in this regard. The far-reaching recommendations of the Committee relate to the establishment of Medical and Health Universities and setting up a Medical and Health Education Commission. The Central Government have accepted these recommendations in principle. However, the structure of these organisations, modalities of their operation, status and various other matters relating to their establishment and functioning would require to be examined before bringing them into existence. These would receive, however, immediate attention of the Ministry.

17.34 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

[Translation]

Technology Mission for Drinking Water

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to convey my thanks to the hon. Minister that he has launched Management of Technology Mission For Drinking Water. Although they had launched the project on the 10th of March, yet the Project report which should have been presented on 31st of March, has not yet been presented to date. First of all I would like that the project report be presented so that some initiative may be taken in the matter.

Secondly, the problem of drinking water has not eased to-date in the country. Even after 38 to 39 years of independence we have not been able to solve this problem. This is a challenge for us.

There are desert areas in the country where one has to trudge 8 to 10 kilometres

to fetch drinking water and one member of the family is totally engaged for this chore. Because of the drinking water problem and the present situation, drinking water is being supplied to one thousand villages of the desert areas through tankers. Arrangement of drinking water is being made in 1050 villages. These are areas where the rainfall is hardly 5 or 6 inches and sometimes there is no rainfall at all. Similarly, in many villages of Rajasthan, no drinking water is available and in the desert areas it is not available at all. Water is supplied to these villages through pipelines upto 70 to 75 kilometers by installing tubewells. The cost of installing a tubewell comes to Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Your department has sanctioned several schemes under which each scheme costs Rs. 15 crores and covers 24 villages. In the Shigdari Panchayat Samiti there is a scheme from Mithura to Shigdari and the another one from Jogsar to Nausar in Barmer. The officers made a visit to the site and sanctioned the schemes of tubewells, each costing Rs. 1.5 crores. In this way the per capita cost works out to be quite substantial. An expenditure of Rs. 5 to 10 lakhs is incurred on water supply per village. This is the situation. We have to solve not only this problem but those of the country as well. The Central Government had provided full assistance to the Government of Rajasthan in the Sixth Five Year Plan. I convey my thanks to you for this. A sum of Rs. 64 crores was earmarked under the minimum needs programme. But we were provided Rs. 124 crores under A.R.P. which enabled us to implement our programmes. But the present situation is that by the end of the 6th Five Year Plan we have to ensure water supply in 10 thousand villages. There are 3700 such villages, the rest are hamlets in the group of 250 houses each. In this way water supply is to be made in 10 thousand villages.

Taking into consideration the acute problem in Rajasthan, that State was given the maximum assistance in the country in the Sixth Five Year Plan. From 1980 to 1984, Rajasthan received Rs. 76.57 crores and if the bonus amount of Rs. 7.50 crores is added the total amount comes to Rs. 84.7 crores which is the maximum vis-a-vis other States. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal Bihar received Rs. 72.39 crores, Rs. 34.50

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

crores, Rs. 29.97 crores respectively. In this way Rajasthan was given top priority as the problem is acute there.

Now the question is that a total sum of Rs. 3554.47 crores has been earmarked for drinking water supply in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Out of it Rs. 2253 crores have been earmarked under the minimum needs programme and Rs. 1201.22 crores under the A.R.P. The allocation made in the Seventh Five Year Plan is far less as compared to the allocations made earlier. In 1983-84, a sum of Rs. 41.42 crores was allocated under A.R.P. in the Sixth Five Year Plan, in 1984-85 it was Rs. 39.13 crores, in 1985-86 it was Rs. 27.32 crores and 1986-87 the allocation is Rs. 21.22 crores. You can say that when Rs. 2253 crores have been earmarked under the M.N.P., how can Rs. 1201 crores more be provided. Ours is a desert area and 55 per cent area in Rajasthan is covered by desert. At least 11 districts are in the desert area and the problem is very acute there and as a result the expenditure there is relatively more. A number of villages will have to be linked with the Indira Gandhi Canal. If these villages are not linked with the Indira Gandhi Canal, no permanent solution of the problem can be found. This is the situation. The problem of drinking water can only be solved through Indira Gandhi Canal because tubewells have been successful in a very limited area. In most of the areas, tubewells have not been successful. It is not possible to ensure water supply in all the villages. Therefore, with more expenditure, the water being supplied to Barmer, Churu and Jaisalmer district from Indira Gandhi Canal will have to be supplied to these villages. If we expect Rajasthan to give a matching amount under Minimum Needs Programme, the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan cannot be solved for 30 years because its capacity is limited. The plan outlay of Maharashtra amounts to Rs. 10,500 crores. The plan outlay of Gujarat is Rs. 6,000 crores and the Rajasthan's plan outlay is Rs. 3,000 crores. Rajasthan cannot allocate more amount than this. This State has allocated Rs. 110 crores for rural sector, Rs. 105 crores for urban sector and

Rs. 5 crores for training. They cannot provide more than Rs. 220 crores. They have to construct the canal for irrigation. Even six per cent area in Jaisalmer is not covered by power supply. It is necessary to make electricity available because the plan cannot be executed without electricity. We shall have to discard diesel sets. In the modern times the Technology Mission will have to discard the diesel sets. Electrification is needed to do away with them. If there is provision in the plan, the electrification is necessary for the purpose of drinking water supply also. The Technology Mission will also have to think whether water can be made available in these areas at a very low cost by harnessing solar energy and the wind energy. This is a challenge before them. If necessary, we must import the machinery for this purpose.

If need be, we must acquire technical knowhow. We shall have to see how can these schemes prove beneficial. The tubewells in our State are installed at a depth of 500 ft to 600 ft. The life of tubewells installed by the Exploratory Tubewell organisation, is as much as twenty to twenty five years. But the life of tubewells installed by Rajasthan Government is only two to two and a half years and in some cases only six months. You should find out its reason. A great loss occurs in this manner. The Technology Mission should examine it fully that how the construction was not carried out properly and how proper material was not used. If a tubewell is installed at a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakhs and if it does not last even for two years, it cannot be called useful in any way. It is essential that it should be enquired into thoroughly.

The Mission will enquire into it. I am giving you information on the basis of the situation prevailing in Barmer district. We are providing funds under A.R.P. Therefore, I am requesting you to become liberal. The allocation of Rs. 1201.22 crores may be increased to Rs. 2500 crores. If this is not done, we will not be able to provide drinking water in all the villages in the Seventh Five Year Plan. If this situation continued in the ten thousands villages in Rajasthan, least five thousand five hundred villages would remain problem villages at

the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. Therefore, it is essential that this amount be enhanced. Taking into consideration the peculiar situation of the desert areas, special funds should be allocated so that we may be able to provide drinking water to those villages. We are not getting electricity. The irrigation schemes are under execution in Rajasthan for the last 25 years but even then the canal has not reached our area. If the arrangement of drinking water is not made in our area, what explanation will we give to the people. The work on the scheme of providing water in our area was started just after independence. Therefore, it is necessary that it should be given top priority over irrigation and power. The Planning Commission should be requested to solve the drinking water problem in the Seventh Five Year Plan. We should keep this in mind while undertaking the work.

Special consideration should be given to Rajasthan, particularly to desert areas, while formulating the norms. Norms cannot be fixed on the basis of the population or per capita basis. We shall have to consider different aspects e.g. the peculiar features of the area and its geographical location. Besides, according to the programme of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitary Decade, water should be made available to all the villages by March, 1991. In a reply to a Starred question No. 826 asked in 1986, it was stated that water will be made available in 85 per cent of rural areas and even then 15 per cent of the villages will be left by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan. We do not want that these 15 per cent villages should be left out. What are you going to do in this respect. What kind of research is going on to convert the saline water in the desert areas into potable water. May I know whether the water will become potable or not and whether it will be beneficial or not. Information may kindly be given in this respect.

Will the rigs, which are being imported, be manufactured in the country itself so that we may not have to import them and the cost may also be less? It has said that hand pumps have not been successful in the desert areas because there the water

is found at a depth of 300 ft. to 500 ft. These hand pumps can be operated only where the depth of water is 125 ft. If you think hand pumps will be successful there, you are mistaken. Therefore, tubewell is the only way out of the problem. But even tube well be functional at the most for 15 to 20 years due to its continuous use. What will happen after it. Therefore, the Indra Gandhi Canal is the only solution to the problem. With these words, I hope the hon. Minister will reply to the points raised by us in the Half-an-Hour discussion.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH): I am grateful to Shri Virdhi Chander Jain for he has raised today a matter of national importance during the Half-an-Hour discussion in the House. There is no doubt that our Government and the Hon. Prime Minister have committed from the very beginning to provide clean drinking water to the people of the country and we are taking steps in this direction. We have mounted a Special Technology Mission so as to supply clean drinking water in every village where it is a small or a big one. The hon. Member has referred to that Mission also and thrown light on the problems of Rajasthan in particular. Shri Virdhi Chander Jain is a very active and an able parliamentarian and he pursues any question raised by him till it is solved. I recollect when I was in the works and Housing Ministry that he made great efforts for the desert areas under D.P.A.P. It is only due to his efforts that special allocation was made for the development of the desert areas. Similarly, he has raised the issue of drinking water problem of Rajasthan in the House. Although Shri Mool Chand Daga and myself represent Rajasthan, it has been our effort to solve the drinking water problem of the desert areas of Rajasthan. The problem is not that water is not available there but the underground water, which is available there is not suitable for drinking purposes and therefore, the problem has become very acute. When we had taken up this problem on national level, we had made efforts to provide water to all the problem villages during the Sixth Five Year Plan and we are continuing the efforts even now. At that time 2.31 lakh problem villages were identified. During the Sixth Five Year

[S. Buta Singh]

Plan drinking water was made available to 1.92 lakh identified villages with the help of Centre as well as the State Government and in this way 0.39 lakh problem villages were not covered at the end of the Plan which have been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

17.51 hrs

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

When the Seventh Five Year Plan was started, the Planning Commission had envisaged that all the village in the country would be provided drinking water facility. An assessment was made in this respect. We will have to give cent per cent coverage on the basis of the assessment and the assessment was made on the basis of the following 4 points.

[English]

- (1) All hamlets and habitations,
- (2) Supply of water at 70 litres per capital daily availability. This will also take care of the water requirements of the Cattle Population in the Scarcity affected areas;
- (3) Special Source for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and
- (4) Augmentation of existing sources so as to compensate for the population growth.

[Translation]

And it was estimated that if we had to provide water to the cent per cent villages, we would need about Rs. 7,700 crores. When the issue of resources availability during the Seventh Plan was raised, we got Rs. 3454.47 crores in all. Now you can see that we got less than half the requirement. Dagaji has correctly worked it out to be 45 per cent. Therefore, with the 45 per cent allocations we shall have to achieve the same targets.

[English]

We have coverage of 100% villages towards the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. Then there was a question as to how we are going to attempt this. We consulted almost every institution and every expert Body which is available in the country to make it possible that within these resources, we are able to achieve the results which we had fixed for ourselves in beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

It was, therefore, decided to appoint a Technology Mission. There are two methods of making water available. The first is to exploit the underground water by means of tubewells and the second is to supply water through pipelines in the areas where there is scarcity of water. The pipeline water system is very expensive and even if we pool all our resources for the purpose, still it would be very difficult to undertake it.

As has been pointed out by the hon. Member, tubewells have not been successful in several areas because of a number of reasons i.e. persistent drought conditions, fall in the level of subsoil water table and sometimes tubewell water turns brackish after one year. Here, one or the other problem always arises. Therefore, the Technology Mission mounted by us has suggested five points. The water available in our country should be treated in five ways so that the water, which is not potable at present, may be made potable at low cost by using low cost technology. An effort has been made to augment the resources available with us by utilising the resources available under programmes like NREP, RLEGP, IRDP under the Ministry of Rural Development and with this end in view important thrust areas have been put up before the Mission and efforts have been made to treat them in the following manner.

[English]

- (i) Development of traditional sources such as streams, springs, nallas, open, dug wells etc. and developing the traditional water collection structures through use of appro-

priate technology and material and making water from these sources potable through suitable treatment.

- (ii) Application of low cost Science and Technology methods to tackle the problem of salinity and brackishness as well as contamination of water with fluorides, iron and pathogenic organism.
- (iii) Augmenting the existing water resources through micro-level econological planning involving afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, water management etc. and developing water balance studies for conjunctive use of water resources so as to prevent indiscriminate and wasteful use of water.
- (iv) Developing health education so as to create awareness and motivate individuals and communities to take adequate preventive and promotive measures against diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. Reorienting and re-structuring the delivery system.
- (v) Training of personnel and developing co-ordination and intergartion among different agencies for achieving the objective.

[*Translation*]

There are the five thrust areas and a Technology Mission has been mounted for their implementation. The Ministry of Rural Development is also involved directly in this project. The Mission Director would be of the rank of Special Secretary or Additional Secretary and he will be assisted by a Standing Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department of Rural Development.

[*English*]

There will be a Standing Committee at national level under the chairmanship of

Secretary, Department of Rural Development and with representatives from CSIR, Planning Commission, Department of Science and Technology Minister of Water Resources, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, CART, Secretaries of State where projects will be taken up under the Mission. The Standing Committee will review the project work and performance periodically and provide overall guidance for the Mission.

Now this is the system. This system which we are going to establish at the Centre will be followed in the State also and from the State downward right to the District level and we will have a Project Director as well as a Committee to assist the Director.

[*Translation*]

In this manner, we have orgaeised the Mission extensively in the whole country.

Sir, the hon, Member had said that I had said that the Mission would be launched by 31st March. But I do not rememba having said anything like this and I have checked it up. However, I can say that the Mission has almost reached the stage of launching, because the final projects etc. have been discussed with all the State Governments and Ministries including the Ministry of Finance and also the Ministries which are headed by the Prime Minister himself. A concrete project has materialised after extensive deliberations and we believe that it would be presented for discussion on the 6th of this month after which it would be finalised.

[*English*]

18.00 hrs.

This Mission is already there. It is not something new.

[*Translation*]

An effort is being made to associate the Mission with the existing schemes so that the water which is already available with us but is ofno use could be made use of by appli-

[Shri S. Buta Singh]

cation of technology, The resources already available with us will be further augmented by utilising the resources available with the Ministry of Rural Development and efforts should be made to ensure that the Mission turns out to be a success. Further, we believe that by the end of this plan due to the success of the Mission, water would be provided to all including those 4 or 5 categories where it is essential to provide water to the cattle as well.

I do not intend to go into any further discussions but as the hon. Member had said regarding our attitude towards Rajasthan, I would only like to say that our affection and dedication to the cause of Rajasthan is no less than theirs. We cannot claim much for he is a senior leader but I would say that we are seized of the problems of Rajasthan and moreover; if the norms are taken into account then Rajasthan's share in the allocation of funds is not less in comparison to other larger States with more population. They are complaining only because their M.N.P. allocation is being reduced and consequently I.R.P. allocation being matching, is also getting reduced. This is the cause of the resentment. I am implying that there ought to be some norms for the distribution of the resources received collectively from the Planning Commission. Whatever norms may be adopted, primary importance has been granted to population.

[English]

50 per cent of the funds available are meant for the total population of the State.

[Translation]

After this 20 per cent of the funds are earmarked for the problem areas, 20 per cent for poverty, and 10 per cent have been earmarked for the spillover problem villages from the Sixth Plan. Therefore, on the basis of this formula and also on the basis of its total population, the share of Rajasthan is greatly reduced; still greater attention is paid to it as it is a difficult area.

Again, it was mentioned that the allocation for Rajasthan in the Sixth Plan was more than in the Seventh Plan; this is not true. The available figures would prove that equal assistance has been given during both the Plans. The only difference is that earlier allocations were matched with MNP and now the same is done through the A.P.A. If the allocations from all sources like NNP, ARWSP and APA are taken into account as a whole then the amount would be quite substantial.

I want to tell the hon. Member that he should not have any apprehension that the problem of drinking water supply in Rajasthan shall be disregarded due to the shortage of funds.

You have specially mentioned the desert areas. I agree with you. If you want we can earmark allocation for the desert areas:

[English]

Certain percentage of the allocated amount should be spent for desert first. Top priority should be given to desert areas because the population of the desert areas are suffering. Not only they are suffering but also they are put to hardship. The water source being far away from the village, they have to fetch the water from far off places. The sub-soil water is not available immediately. Therefore, I am prepared to consider the special consideration for the desert areas so far as ARP allocation is concerned. There I can go with the member. I can also suggest to the State Governments to increase the percentage to the Rajasthan areas. I hope the hon. Member will be happy if I make this commitment here. I do not want to enter into controversy. In case the hon. Member has certain points to discuss, he can sit with me and sort them out.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman: Sir, first, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for giving primacy to drinking water problem and for making clean drinking water avail-

lable to all the problem vitlages. More praiseworthy is the fact that the decision of the Government regarding setting up of a Technology Mission will have far reaching effects. We would certainly be able to solve our drinking water problem in the rural areas by developing appropriate technology and on that basis our plans would also be modified. However, the hon. Minisier's reply to this regard gives rise to two issues. The first is that the goal of the Technology Mission is to replace the capital intensive rural drinking water scheme with low cost appropriate technology and secondly to develop low cost water treatment facilities for providing clean drinking water and also to make clean driking water available in the rural areas.

I would like to put questions on these two points. Do the Scientific establishments that you have mentioned like the CSIR and the Council for the Advancement of the Technology are under the Ministry of Rural Development and have they developed appropriate technology on these subjects, in our country? The geographical situation in our country varies from one region to another. So the drinking water supply project in Rajasthan would be different from that of Madhya Pradesh, and it would be quite different in Maharashtra and Gujarat. At certain places drinking water can be provided throughout the year by under ground water itself and at other places water is available only at a depth of 400 to 500 ft. Again, at some places river water is the source for supply of drinking water and at other places water has to be made available by drilling tubewells. So, I want to enquire from the hon. Minister that the Technology Mission has of course been established at the Central level but has there been any development of appropriate technology in our country which is proposed to be implemented through the Technology Mission? Has any work been done or any new technology developed by CART or under the scheme of Water Management for safe drinking water resources so that low cost but good quality water supply projects could be get up in the rural areas. These projects should also function effectively because it has been our experience during the Sixth Five Year Plan that the water supply projects taken up under the W.F.

or NNICEF were incorrectly designed. At times, the pumping stations would throw water with such a force that the pipes would burst. Somewhere the water would not reach the head or the top and people drew water by boring holes into the pipes. Will the appropriate technology, which we are developing or propose to develop, remove these shortcomings? In the Seventh Five Year Plan we are setting up a Standing Committee under the Technology Mission, which would have one senior scientist from each Scientifict Organisation and efficient representatives from Department of Rural Department but how are these to be implemented? How would the Technology Transfer take place? The Minister's reply has not yet clarified these issues.

My first two questions relate to the Technology Mission. Thirdly, Rs. 3,500 crores have been earmaked for rural water supply schemes during the Seventh Five Year Plan. It is a laudable step because 39,000 villages, which are a spillover from the Sixth Plan, are still problem villages. Moreover, fresh water sources have to be created for those areas which are affected by drought or where water table has fallen. In view of his situation will the water projects be redesigned with new technology in villages with more than thousand population? Has the Centre taken any initiative in this direction? Again, as regards the centrally sponsored schemes which are given to the States in the form of MNP, my question is whether these are being granted on the basis of some new format or some new design? I would like the hon. Minister to reply to my three questions.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : At the outset I congratulate the Hon. Minister for the scheme envisaged. There are problematic villages and there are also water scarcity villages. The Hon. Minister has said that the tube wells only work for one or two years, then the water strata goes down. I want to know from the Hon. Minister, under these conditions whether for the villagcs which are situated near the banks of rivers, instead of tube wells water can be supplied through pipes. Because the tube wells go out of order often and also does not praside secure water supply.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

Previously, some villages which are situated on the banks of rivers are supplied water through pipe lines. Will that be taken into consideration? Further, in Orissa the coastal areas we get only the saline water. Orissa is invaded either by drought or by flood every year and also is inhabited by 38% of Adivasis and Harijans besides backward people. Will the Minister give special attention to Orissa and provide more funds?

The hon Minister of State has also announced in the other House that the money allotted for the drinking water is diverted to other areas. Will the Hon. Minister take specific interest in this matter and instruct the State Government to utilise the money for the same purpose?

18.12 hrs.

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATIONAL 1986.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOME AFFAIRS (SARI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Draft National Policy on Education 1986 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. Lt-2608/86].

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION--CONTD.

[Translation]

Technological Mission for Drinking Water

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per your directive, I would straight away put the questions.

How is it that the Technology Mission is being set up after a period of 38 years of independence; why did you keep silent all these years.

18.14 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair]

Ever since the First Five Year Plan was launched it has been said that all our development works would be completed under the five Year Plans. Assurances have been given many times in this regard. You have said that all such works will be completed by 1999. Could it be true in view of the fact that the drinking water problem has not been solved in the past 38 years in spite of assurances given in this regard; and why has the Technology Mission been set up after 38 years? I hope you are not misleading the people. The people living in Delhi and other areas get 100 litres of water per head, but what is the per capita availability in the rural areas? Kindly tell us the average quantum of water being supplied in those areas. Thirdly, why was it decided to grant certain allocations for the urban areas during the recent State Conference? The towns and cities have their own municipalities and corporations and should, therefore implement their schemes themselves. Funds to the tune of crores of rupees are allocated for the urban areas because they are very vocal but funds are denied to the rural areas because they are not vocal and cannot project their demands. Why should only the urban people get more water and more allocations? Kindly tell us how much of water do the people living in the rural areas get per head? You should stop providing for the urban areas. Shri Ghafoor has already sanctioned Rs. 66 crores to them. I do not understand what you are saying. You are very experienced and an expert in giving answers. You should be assigned the task of giving all the replies. I bow to your acumen in this respect. However, I could not understand your reply... (Interruptions) Mr. Bhagat has also joined hands. Whatever, was lacking till now, has been made good. Now there are three stalwarts—Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh.

In reply to one of my questions, it was stated that by making use of low cost technology, alternative but effective methods would be found to tackle the problem of capital intensive rural drinking