

weavers are undergoing hardship due to increase in price of yarn. Yarn prices, which have been ruling high, have shown a slightly diminishing trend during the past fortnight.

(b) and (c). A delegation of handloom weavers and exporters have apprised Government of the problems of yarn supply in the handloom sector. All the Associations connecting with the spinning industry and NTC have been requested to take the following measures:-

- i) Reduction in yarn prices through voluntary measures and increase of self discipline by the industry;
- ii) To take steps to prevent any further rise in yarn prices;
- iii) To get a feedback about the counts of hank yarn in heavy demand and to take steps to improve production/supply thereof;and
- iv) A decision has been taken to set-up a high-level Yarn-Price Monitoring Committee which will monitor the price fluctuations in yarn, assess availability of critical counts of yarn used in the handloom sector and ensure fulfillment of hank-yarn obligation scheme.

(d) and (e). A decision has been taken to set up yarn depots by the National Handloom Development Corporation for supply of hank yarn at competitive prices. It is proposed to set up twenty depots to sell yarn by the end of the current financial year in consultation and cooperation with State handloom agencies/apex cooperatives.

Drinking water to Residents of Delhi

262. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ: Will

the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has brought out instances of contamination of water in the storage tanks of the Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking as well of major buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to provide pure potable drinking water to the residents of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The World Health Organisation report on the environmental problems in Delhi depicts that though the quality of water produced at the Treatment Plants meet both the National and International standards, numerous storage tanks both at the surface level for the distribution system and in consumer buildings are of questionable safety and instances of contamination of water have been recorded on these points. The water supply through hand pumped tube wells or open dugwells which are either too shallow or poorly constructed is amenable to contamination from seepage of water from drains and on site sanitation facilities and open pool ponds or lakes. The situation is aggravated by floods during rainy season giving rise to epidemics of Gastro-entritis and or cholera.

(c) Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking have reported that the drinking water supplied by them is potable and wholesome and conforms to the standard laid down by the Ministry of Urban Development. The quality of water is checked at every stage of treatment right from raw water stage upto storage in surface reservoirs and also in the distribution system at the consumers end. Besides, water supplied from Ranney Wells & Tube wells is also tested on regular basis with a view to avoid-

ing any contamination during transmission of water through Municipal Mains. Water samples are lifted daily from distribution system i.e. individual taps and public hydrants. Steps have been taken to strengthen the water testing laboratories at Chandrawal, Wazirabad, Bhagirathi, Haiderpur, Okhla water plants by providing equipments and adequate manpower. For facilitating collection of samples from various areas under the command of each of these laboratories, vehicles have been provided at each of these laboratories. Besides, collecting at least 25 samples daily from the distribution system under their command area, quality of water from Ranney wells, tubewells and deep bore hand pumps falling within their jurisdiction are also being monitored by these laboratories regularly. Considering chances of underground water getting polluted in Trans-Yamuna area, special measures like testing of water from each of the Ranney well on daily basis and water from tube-wells on alternative days and collection of about 50 samples from the distribution system have been made in the trans-Yamuna area. Telephone numbers of laboratories and the concerned officers have also been publicised in the newspapers so that in case of any complaint regarding quality of water, consumers may contact them.

All water mains reservoirs are flushed, cleaned and dis-infected once in a year.

Districts covered under Scheme of Multi-Drug treatment of Leprosy

263. SHRIMATIBASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND

FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to cover more districts under the scheme of multi-drug treatment of leprosy and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of districts that have been brought under multi-drug treatment upto March, 1989; and

(c) to what extent achievement has been made in reduction of the leprosy by way of implementing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Out of 196 districts identified as endemic with prevalence rate of 5 and above per thousand population, 112 districts have already been covered upto March, 1989. The remaining 84 districts are proposed to be covered under MDT by the year 1992. The list of 84 districts is given in the statement below.

(c) With the introduction of MDT, the number of leprosy cases have substantially decreased. Out of 39.19 lakh cases as estimated during 1981 the number of leprosy cases have been reduced to 27.70 lakh by the end of March, 1989. The prevalence rate has also come down by 30%. As against the prevalence rate of 5.72/1000 population in 1981, the prevalence rate by the end of march, 1989 has been reduced to 4.04 per thousand population.