

Public Health Engineering, Water Supply and Sewage Plants

10253. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's public health engineering waters supply and sewage plants are manned by untrained people as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 25th January, 1988;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Water Supply and Sanitation are State subjects. The State Governments are responsible for proper and adequate manning of the Public Health Engineering/installations systems. The Central Government is actively assisting the State Governments in the development of trained man-power in that behalf.

Housing Activity by HUDCO

10254. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HUDCO mainly provides finance for housing and urban development programme;

(b) if so, whether it also concentrates on housing activity for the economically weaker sections;

(c) if so, the total number of scheme HUDCO has sanctioned in the last quarter; and

(d) how many dwelling units and plots

would be covered by these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH); (a) to (d). The main objectives of HUDCO are to finance or undertake housing and urban development activities, particularly for the poorer sections of the society. It finances a variety of schemes formulated by State Housing Boards, Development Authorities, Municipal Corporations, Cooperatives etc. both in the rural and urban areas. As prescribed by the Government 30% of its loan sanctions of each year is earmarked for the economically weaker sections; in addition 25% of the loan sanctions of each year is for Low Income Groups. During the last quarter (Jan. 88—March 88) HUDCO has sanctioned a total of 226 schemes under the various categories. The number of dwelling units and plots covered by these schemes would be 102551 and 4249 respectively.

List of Problem Villages

10255. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether underground water level is receding day by day and thus there is a need to revise the list of problem villages;

(b) whether some villages of Maharashtra have not been included in the list of problem villages for drinking water purposes;

(c) whether Government propose to include such villages of Maharashtra in the list of problem villages; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-

TURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) Due to successive droughts and inadequate rainfall in most of the States, water table in some parts of the country is depleting. In such areas where water table has gone down considerably, or sources have dried up, central assistance is being provided under drought relief assistance for coverage of these villages with drinking water supply arrangements by construction of new wells/tube wells & deepening of existing wells. As such, there is no need to revise the list of problem villages.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Government had submitted the list of all problem villages after proper survey and identification of such villages at the request of Government of India.

News Item Captioned 'Purifying Water without using Chemicals'

10256. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 24 February, 1988 entitled 'Purifying Water without using chemical;

(b) whether Government have obtained the technology in this regard from Germany; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Unscientific Mining Techniques used In Marble Mines

10257. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be Pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of Indian marble is high because of low recovery of about 30 per cent of usable chunks which is due to unscientific and almost primitive mining techniques used in Makrana marble mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to increase the level of recovery?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (c). Price of marble varies with quality and popularity and is not entirely dependent on the recovery rate. As per reports obtained from the field, about 60% rock is recovered in the form of blocks, 25% in the form of small irregular pieces from which tiles etc. are produced; the rest are utilised for manufacture of makrana chips and marble powder. Since the Makrana mines are in small sizes of plots and have gone as deep as 30 meters, possibility of introducing modern machineries for extraction of marble is remote. However with a view to increase the level of recovery, the State Government have introduced use of air compressors for drilling holes and breaking the rocks by hammering with wedges so that regular blocks can be formed.

Sterilization Process for Domestic Animals

10258. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: