

Drinking Water in Rural India

2. SHRI DURGHA CHAND: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the target for each State for providing drinking water to problem villages each year;

(b) whether any priority has been fixed for villages in hilly areas like those in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the Himachal Government have sent any proposal to the Central Government to take the problem villages in that State on priority basis for providing drinking water facilities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Year-wise, State-wise targets are not available.

(b) to (d). Villages where there is water scarcity have been categorised as 'problem villages', the criteria being villages where people have to go a distance of over 1.6 km (1 mile) to fetch drinking water; or drinking water is not available within a depth of 50 ft. (i.e. where the lift involved is more than 50 ft.) or where water available locally is endemic to water borne diseases like Cholera or Guinea-worm or contains chemicals in quantities which are a health hazard. These criteria are applied to villages all over the country including hilly regions like Himachal Pradesh.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. Government of Himachal Pradesh have sent several schemes for drinking water supply to such difficult areas. So far 245 schemes have been approved by the Centre at an estimated cost of

Rs. 1483.08 lakhs to be taken up under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. Apart from this, the State Government from its own resources have taken up several schemes under the Minimum Needs Programme.

The grants in aid given to the Government of Himachal Pradesh during 1978-79 was of the order of Rs. 425.12 lakhs. State-wise allocation for 1979-80 is yet to be decided. Pending final allocation, it has been decided to release Rs. 165 lakhs on ad hoc basis.

Suggestion for Licensing and Registration of Prostitutes

3. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Association of Social Health in India called on him recently and apprised him of problems arising out from the prostitution in some parts of the country, particularly in Agra;

(b) if so, whether the delegation have suggested for licensing and registration of prostitution to check the evil; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATAKI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal, being in contravention of the Instrument of Ratification of International Convention relating to the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of others, signed at New York on the 9th May, 1950, to which India is also a signatory, was not accepted.