

Provision of Drinking Water to Problem Villages

154. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide drinking water to all in the 2.31 lakh identified problem villages of the country during remaining period of Sixth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any scheme for the same has been finalised; and

(c) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH):

(a) to (c). Supply of drinking water to all problem villages has been included in the new 20-Point Programme. The outlay for the programme in the Sixth Plan period has been stepped up considerably to Rs. 2,007.11 crores compared to Rs. 429.27 crores in the 5th Plan (1974—79). Drinking water supply is a State subject and schemes are formulated and implemented by the State Governments. The major portion of the funds for this programme is also provided in the State sector. Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is, however, given to supplement the resources of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations in providing safe drinking water to identified problem villages. The number of problem villages provided with drinking water facilities increased from 25,978 during the year 1980-81 to 29,837 during the year 1981-82. It is expected that about 42,000 problem villages would be covered during the year 1982-83. At the conference held with State Ministers and officials in New Delhi on 19-1-83, it was resolved that all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations may take urgent steps to step up the pace of implementation of the 20-Point Programme to provide atleast one source of safe drinking water to all the identified problem villages during the remaining period of the Sixth Plan.

The outlay under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is being stepped up progressively from Rs. 100 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 110 crores in 1981-82 and Rs. 151.50 crores in 1982-83.

Housing Shortage in the country

155. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been made regarding the housing shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the extent of housing shortage and requirement of funds to meet the shortage;

(c) steps to be taken for arrangement of the funds; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to involve private sector in Housing Programme.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c). On the basis of 1971 census and population projections for 1981 made by the Registrar General of India, the National Buildings Organisation has estimated the housing shortage in the country at 21.3 million dwelling units as under:—

(i) Rural areas	16.5 million
(ii) Urban areas	4.8 million

'Housing' is a State subject. Within the Plan allocations, funds are provided to the State Governments in the shape of 'block loans' and 'block grants'. The State Governments are free to earmark funds for different schemes according to their needs and priorities. The Sixth Plan (1980—85) provides an outlay of Rs. 1490.87 crores for housing. LIC/GIC loans which form part of plan funds are also available to the State Governments for social housing schemes. In addition to