

**Provision of Drinking Water
to Problem Villages**

2470. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY : Will be Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether even 36 years after getting independence, a number of villages in the country have been facing drinking water problem;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any special plan to provide drinking water to each and every village of the country and if so, details thereof;

(c) whether it is time bound programme; and

(d) special funds allocated, if any, for the purpose ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF) : (a) As on 1.4.1980, 230784 villages were identified as problem villages according to the criteria prescribed by the Government.

(b) Water supply is a State subject and the State formulate and implement schemes for providing water supply in rural areas under the Minimum Needs Programme in the State sector. The Centre has, however, drawn up a special scheme in the Central sector called the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme to supplement the resources of the States for covering the villages which have been identified as problem villages with at least one source of safe drinking water. In addition, the Centre has launched a new incentive scheme under which grants are released to States based on performance in achieving the targets laid down in covering the problem villages.

(c) Yes, Sir. The problem villages are proposed to be covered by the end of the Sixth Plan i.e. 31.3.1985 with at least one source of safe drinking water supply.

(d) Under the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme an amount of Rs. 600 crores was provided for giving grant-in-aid to the States/U. Ts. for covering the problem villages during the Sixth Plan. As this amount has been more or less, utilised within the first four years of the Plan, a provision of Rs. 242.50 crores has been in the proposed Annual Plan for 1984,85. During 1983,84, an amount of Rs. 75 crores was also provided for grants to the States/U. Ts based on performance in achieving the targets problem villages. This is in addition to the provision made in the State sector under the Minimum Needs Programme of Rs. 1407.11 crores during the Sixth Plan period.

Fair Price Shops on Wheels

2471. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have started fair price shops on wheels in the Capital;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce this scheme in other parts of the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M. S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) Only one fair price shop has started functioning on mobile van in the Capital.

(b) and (c) All the state Governments have been advised to open mobile shops for very remote, far-flung and sparsely populated areas. Some of the States are already having some mobile fair price shops.