

(b) whether the people of industrial or urban environment are at risk because industrialisation is associated with higher levels of lead contamination; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to prevent this health hazard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU): (a) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the press reports which appeared in March, 1973 in regard to the harmful effect of 'Gulal', Sindoor and Surma and the high level of lead in samples of drinking water.

(b) and (c). A pilot study to estimate the lead levels in soil and air in selected marked areas of heavy vehicular traffic has been carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research in Ahmedabad. The study has shown the presence of lead in samples of air, soil and urine of the persons studied in varying degrees. Further detailed investigation is in progress at the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad.

**Setting up of a high powered board to replace Delhi Municipal Corporation's Water Supply Undertaking**

9445. SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO :  
SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high powered Board to replace Delhi Municipal Corporation's Water Supply Undertaking ;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal ; and

(c) by what time the decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF

WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The details are under consideration and decision will be taken soon.

**Survey of reservoirs of underground water for Drinking Water and Central Aid therefor**

9446. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT :  
SHRI J. G. KADAM :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey of the various States has been made for reservoirs of underground water ; if so, what are its findings ;

(b) whether underground water has been exploited for drinking purposes; if so, where and to what extent ; and

(c) whether the Central Government have given any loan or subsidy to any State for exploiting underground water reservoirs during the last two years and if so, to which State and to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) The responsibility for survey and development of ground water resources rests primarily with the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board which is now the unified agency at the Central level for handling ground water, has been helping the States mostly by way of broad macro level/specialised studies including exploratory drilling in the field of ground water. The results of preliminary surveys tentatively indicate a figure of 215 million acre ft. for the total usable groundwater potential in the country.

(b) Groundwater is being exploited for drinking water purposes practically in all the States. No precise estimate however, of the quantity of groundwater exclusively used for drinking water is available.

(c) Central assistance is normally made available to the State Governments in the form of block loans and grants for the annual Plan as a whole and is not related to any individual programme or scheme. However, Central assistance in the form of loans (as well as some subsidy) was made available to the States for Minor Irrigation Programmes including ground water development as a special case under the Emergency Agricultural Production Programme initiated by the Ministry during the year 1972-73 to minimise the effect of the drought. State wise details are given in the attached statement.

STATEMENT  
(Rs. in crores)

S. No.	Name of State	Amount released for minor irrigation programmes
1	2	3
1.	Aadhra Pradesh . . . . .	8.397
2.	Assam . . . . .	2.020@
3.	Bihar . . . . .	17.728
4.	Gujarat . . . . .	5.000
5.	Haryana . . . . .	12.000
6.	Himachal Pradesh . . . . .	0.325
7.	Kerala . . . . .	2.500
8.	Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	5.810
9.	Maharashtra . . . . .	24.963
10.	Manipur . . . . .	0.333
11.	Mysore . . . . .	5.299
12.	Nagaland . . . . .	0.200
13.	Orissa . . . . .	6.600
14.	Punjab . . . . .	14.720*
15.	Rajasthan . . . . .	3.892
16.	Tamil Nadu . . . . .	2.990**
17.	Tripura . . . . .	0.299
18.	Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	20.750
19.	West Bengal . . . . .	14.330
TOTAL		148.136

@ Includes Rs. .32 lakhs for purchase of tractors and threshers.

\* Includes a grant of Rs. 197 lakhs for construction of tubewells in the border areas.

\*\* Includes Rs. 20 lakhs for purchase of tractors and threshers.

Takingover of Bharat Sewak Samaj School, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.

9447. SHRI G. BHUVRAHAN :  
SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the proposed strike of Teachers of Bharat Sewak Samaj, Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi due to mis-management and lower pay-scales to those of the Government and also due to the threat of the authorities of Bharat Sewak Samaj to close down the school from the ensuing education session ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the teachers and future of the students there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) From the information collected by Delhi Administration from the school teachers, it is revealed that there was a chalk/pen-down strike by the teachers from 16-3-73 to 15-4-73. However, there was no official intimation about the strike to the Directorate of Education, Delhi either from the management or from the teachers.

(b) The school was granted provisional recognition upto 30-4-73, *inter-alia*, on the condition that the pay-scales given to the staff in no case would be less than the pay-scales prescribed for corresponding categories in Government Schools. The Management has not fulfilled this condition and the question whether, in the circumstances, recognition should be extended or not, is under consideration of the Delhi Administration.