

Water Supply in Rural Areas

9965. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Editorial in the "Times of India" dated the 3rd May, 1970 under the heading 'Rural Water Supply' ;

(b) the reasons for which estimated cost for rural water supply is Rs. 36,000 per village in India when the UNICEF Plan for rock bound wells which is more difficult is only of Rs. 11,000 ;

(c) since every third village is without safe source of drinking water the reasons why big rivers are not tapped for water supply to a group of villages in the same way they are now tapped for urban water supply ;

(d) the reasons why a survey for such supplies be not made and cost estimated which may be lower than the present cost of supplies from wells ;

(e) since the amount incurred by Government i.e. Rs. 150 crores for supply of water to 4,500 villages is unduly high, whether Government have considered engaging the private sector for works, which if given on tenders will be competitive ; and

(f) the reasons why all major works should not be first open to tenders before they are undertaken departmentally ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) She required information is given in the Annexure.

(c) Regional water supply schemes to serve groups of villages from river sources are taken up whenever economically feasible.

(d) Special Investigation Divisions have been set up in the various States to undertake survey and estimate the cost of schemes.

(e) and (f). The outlay of about Rs. 150 crores was on the various programmes for provision of drinking water in villages including piped water supply, well construction, renovation of wells etc. With this

outlay, 17,500 villages have been covered with piped water supply, about 4,18,700 new wells constructed, 3,04,000 new hand operated tubewells provided and about 5,54,000 old wells renovated. The execution of schemes is the responsibility of the State Governments who follow the rules and procedure prescribed for execution of such works. It is, however, understood that the State Governments call for tenders and get the works done through contractors in such cases where the work is not to be done departmentally.

Annexure

The estimated cost for Rural Water Supply depends upon a number of factors which include the population served, type and distance of source (whether it is a shallow or deep well/tubewell, spring, canal or river) treatment needed (like filtration or iron removal) and type of supply (merely drawing of water from wells or tubewells through handpumps, or supply through power pumps and over head tanks either through street hydrants or individual house connections).

The UNICEF in a recent communication to the Government of India have indicated that for providing drinking water supply through hand pumps by boring 18,078 wells in 11,655 villages, the total estimated outlay will be \$18.565 millions (about Rs. 13.50 crores) in which they have assumed Government share to be \$12.00 millions and their shares to be \$5.893 millions. On this basis, the average cost of providing water supply per village would work out to about Rs. 11,000.

However, according to the programme envisaged earlier, the UNICEF had indicated an assistance by way of rigs and other equipments for a total sum of \$4.50 millions (about Rs. 3.375 crores) ; on the basis of which an allocation of Rs. 3.50 crores has been made in the Central Sector of Fourth Plan to be given to the States over and above their Plan ceilings. With the help of these equipments the States will execute drinking water supply schemes in villages located in hardrock scarcity areas under the National Water Supply and sanitation Programme for which the expenditure will be met by them from out of the State Plans for which Central assistance is given in the form of block loans and block grants. An

allocation of Rs. 131 crores has been earmarked in the Fourth Plan for rural water supply schemes, in State Sector. On the basis of rough estimates, the average cost per village works out Rs. 33,000 to Rs. 40,000 for provision of piped water supply/hand-pumps.

The proposals now received from the UNICEF are being scrutinised.

Family Planning Programme

9966. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the methods employed to test the statistics of different items of Family Planning work and the percentage of errors discovered ;

(b) the percentage of the tests subject to inquiry from the individuals subject to operations ;

(c) the reasons why the individuals subject to planning operations are not grouped according to their incomes, so that it can be ascertained from what strata the population is restricted ;

(d) the reasons why each Family Planning Centre should not have an advisory council of registered doctors in the area by election from among themselves ; and

(e) the reasons why such a council should not be used to check statistics and to programme work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) and (b). There are inbuilt checks and balances provided to test the statistics of Sterilization and I.U.C.D. work, as compensation money for these purposes is given to the volunteer concerned, the motivator, the doctor, paramedical staff, etc. In addition, the supervisory staff are required to test check 5 per cent of the sterilization and I.U.C.D. cases for accuracy as to correctness of age, address and other particulars.

From the reports received it is observed that the percentage of errors in the statistics maintained is small. Further, full facts are

being ascertained from the State Governments.

(c) Record of income of individuals undergoing sterilization operations is kept and their grouping income-wise can, therefore, be attempted.

(d) Normally, in any urban locality there will hardly be more than 1 or 2 registered medical practitioners in the area covered by each urban centre and similarly in the Rural areas too the number of registered practitioners will be hardly 1 or 2 per Primary Health Centre. It is, therefore, not practicable to form Advisory Committee for Family Planning Centres consisting of registered doctors by election from among themselves.

(e) Does not arise.

Sale of Drugs through Public Sector Agencies

9967. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the arrangements being made of the prices of stocks purchased at old prices which remain with the retailers, after the new prices come into effect ;

(b) whether Government propose to sell drugs of which the retail prices cannot be marked on their containers only through public sector agencies, including the rural dispensaries which could be allowed to take such agencies ; and

(c) whether the registered practitioners in every block would be associated with popularisation and distribution of drugs, through committees at block level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) While introducing the new pricing policy for drugs, reasonable margin of time will be allowed for liquidation of stocks purchased at old prices.

(b) and (c). Government have no such proposal under consideration, at present.