

[English]

### Drinking Water

4309. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any indepth study about the achievements of National Drinking Water Mission launched by Late Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide sustainable drinking water to the entire rural population over the turn of this century; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) A national survey was conducted to verify the status of drinking water supply in rural habitations during 1991-94 and the same was reverified in 1996-97. As per these surveys as on 1.4.97, the status of coverage of rural habitations with drinking water facilities in terms of the national norms is as given below :

Not Covered	61660
Partially Covered	377484
Fully Covered	991519

(c) and (d) As per the action plan prepared by the State Governments, all the rural habitations except for some parts of Rajasthan are to be covered with safe drinking water facilities during the Ninth Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

### Quality of Steel

4310. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the quality of steel being produced at present; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Improvement of quality of steel is a continuous process. It is dependent on willingness of the consumer to pay adequate price, technology, quality of raw materials, trained manpower, etc. Government have been sensitising the issue of need to improve quality of steel by the

producers at different fora through seminars, meetings, etc. The steel plants have been encouraged to implement total quality management/ISO 9000 standards in their plants. They are being encouraged to use better quality raw materials, acquire new and modern technologies, to train personnel to work in accordance with the right procedures, laid down instructions and to make investments in Research & Development for quality improvement. Policy for import of equipments, technical knowhow/knowledge, drawings and designs have been liberalised and tariffs have been reduced.

### Setting up of a Cantonment in J&K

4311. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the date when the task for establishment of a cantonment at Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir was taken up and the amount spent so far thereon; and

(b) the task completed so far and the reasons for delay in its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) and (b) No decision has been taken to notify Bhaderwah in Jammu and Kashmir as a Cantonment under Section 3 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

### Retrenchment of Workers of BGML

4312. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :  
SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), Kolar Gold Fields is planning to retrench workers during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of employees who have already opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(d) the number of employees required for operational and administrative functions;

(e) whether the above Company is running under loss;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken to run the company on 'no-profit and no loss' basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b)

Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) has a proposal to retrench employees during 1998-99 as it has surplus manpower.

(c) During 1997-98 till 31.8.97, the last date for opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) as per the decision of the Government, 1535 employees opted for the VRS.

(d) to (g) The Company is sick and is before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) since 1992. The provisional net loss for 1997-98 and accumulated losses as on 31.3.98 are Rs. 66.60 crores and Rs. 370 crores respectively. During June, 1997 the Government decided, inter-alia, to explore the possibility of rehabilitating BGML through Joint Venture route by induction of a private co-promoter(s). Accordingly, a Committee was constituted, which has since given its report. The future of BGML will be decided as per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. In the absence of any sanctioned rehabilitation scheme by the BIFR in respect of BGML, it is not possible to indicate the number of employees required for operational and administrative functions.

#### **Compensation Paid to Karnataka by KIOCL**

4313. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has granted permission to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited to explore mining possibilities near Nellibeedu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of compensation to be paid by KIOCL to Karnataka Government for the development of Kudremukh National Park;

(d) whether the compensation paid by KIOCL has been utilised for the development of the Kudremukh National Park; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### **China's Accusation Against India**

4314. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China lashes out at India" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated May 19, 1998;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction to Chinese accusations claiming that New Delhi has occupied 90,000 Sq. km. of Chinese territory and poses new threat to China as well as other neighbours with nuclear weapons;

(c) whether Chinese accusation is being considered as a threat to the country's security; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to safeguard the security and integrity of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned China lashes out at India, which appeared in The Hindustan Times dated 19.5.1998.

2. The Chinese statement about occupation of their 90,000 sq. km. of territory by India is contrary to facts. In fact, China is illegally occupying about 38,000 sq. km. of Indian territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State. Apart from this, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'boundary settlement' of 1963, Pakistan had illegally ceded 5180 sq. km. of Indian territory in Pakistan - occupied Kashmir to China.

3. As regards Chinese accusation that India poses new threat to China as well as other neighbouring countries, it may be stated that in India's neighbourhood, China is already a nuclear weapon State since sixties. China is also assisting Pakistan in their nuclear and missile programmes. India's nuclear programme is only for the purpose of defence of the country. It does not pose any threat to any of our neighbours including China.

4. All developments having bearing on our national security are constantly monitored and assessed. Appropriate measures are taken to maintain our defence preparedness to face all eventualities.

#### **Linking of Talcher with Gopalpur**

4315. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay new railway lines between Talcher and Gopalpur; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF