

[English]

**Fluorine in Drinking Water**

2976. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the prevalence of high percentage of fluorine in the Drinking Water in Prakasam District resulting in bad effect on the health conditions of the people of the area;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by the Government for identifying the fluorine affected areas; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people residing in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A nation wide survey was conducted by the Ministry during 1991-93 to identify the status of water supply in the rural habitations and the validation survey was conducted during May-July, 1994. As per the information received from the State, currently, there are 1122 habitations affected by fluoride in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject and States are to design water supply systems suited to the State. Government of India support the efforts of the State Governments both technically and financially through the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers to sanction projects relating to quality of water have since been delegated to the State Governments. So far, 8 projects under the submission for control of fluorosis at a total cost of Rs. 41.03 crore and 2 projects under assistance from the Netherlands Government, covering 505 habitations and benefiting 7.79 lakh population have been taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Prakasam district.

**National Consultancy Congress Meet**

2977. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Consultancy Development Centre has organised national consultancy congress meet in New Delhi in January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the focus of the above meet; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in developing the infrastructural sector?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consultancy Development Centre (CDC) organised National Consultancy Congress Meet on 15-16 January, 1999 at New Delhi. It was attended by about 350 delegates from consultancy organisations, Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contractors, financial institutions, Government departments/agencies and other related organisations. The focus of the Meet was on role of consultants in Financing and Management of Infrastructure Projects mainly in areas of power, transportation, telecommunication and urban development. Experiences of project owners/authorities, financial institutions and consultants were presented and discussed during the congress. Several recommendations were made regarding strengthening & promotion of Indian consultancy services and enhancing role of domestic consultants in infrastructure projects in India as well as abroad.

Five Awards were also presented during the Meet, to consultants in recognition of their meritorious consultancy services.

(d) The Meet deliberated on issues such as; the effectiveness of the investments being made and likely to be made in infrastructure projects; and the role of consultants and other agencies in conceptualization to completion of infrastructure projects. The Meet also helped in generating awareness among the participants about the need for engaging appropriate consultants with established competence and credibility, in infrastructure projects, to meet the project targets and deadlines. The Meet provided an opportunity for closer interactions among project authorities, financial institutions, consultants, and other agencies which would be helpful in faster development of the infrastructure sector in the country.