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Title: Need to enhance the existing incentives payable under Total Sanitation Campaign Project.

SHRI Y.V. RAO (GUNTUR): Sir, more than 70 per cent of the country lives in rural areas and a large portion of them are below poverty line. Due to illiteracy and non-affordability, people in rural areas are not able to use individual latrines. Because of non-availability of latrines, people go to open places, particularly roadsides to meet the nature's call. By doing this, they not only create pollution and nuisance but put their lives in danger.

Under rural sanitation programme, the Government of India is running Total Sanitation Campaign Project. Under this, assistance is provided for construction of individual toilets. Hitherto, under HUDCO programme, an incentive of Rs.2,000 was given for each beneficiary for construction of Individual Sanitary Latrines (ISLs). But under Total Sanitation Campaign, an incentive of Rs.600 (Rs.300 by the Government of India and Rs.300 by the State Government) only is offered for each beneficiary. Beneficiaries (all below poverty line people) are not coming forward to take up the construction of ISLs since the total cost of ISL, even with low cost technology, is about Rs.2,500 and about Rs.3,000 in B.C. soils.

I therefore, request the Minister for Rural Development that the incentive from the State Government and the Central Government may be enhanced to Rs.2,000 instead of the present amount of Rs.600.