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Title: Regarding proper implementation of sanitation programme in rural areas of the country.

SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

I want to raise an important issue regarding the problem of sanitation in rural India. According to a WHO and UNICEF report, 65 per cent of rural population in India defecates in the open. This is causing health related problems, problem of crime, increase in infant death rate - crime against women is directly linked to lack of sanitation facilities – and eighty-eight per cent of the reported deaths due to diarrhoea in children below five years.

Even though our Centrally-sponsored scheme Nirmal Bharat Yojana is there, it has been allocated a meagre fund. There is a budgetary allocation from the Government of India of only Rs. 3,000 crore for sanitation and drinking water for the entire country. So, I urge upon the Government, through you, to allocate more money for sanitation facilities and for construction of toilets, especially in the rural areas. Thank you.