

FIFTY-FIFTH REPORT

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1983-84)

(SEVENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING
DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

[Action Taken on the Forty-Eighth Report
(Seventh Lok Sabha)]



Presented to Lok Sabha on 22 12 1983

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(1983-84)

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STUDY GROUP

ON ACTION TAKEN REPORTS OF ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1983-84)

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INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Fifty-fifth Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Forty-eighth Report of Estimates Committee (7th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Works and Housing—Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation.

2. The 48th Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 28 April, 1983. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report by 27 October, 1983. The replies were examined by Study Group on Action Taken Reports of Estimates Committee at their sitting held on 5 December, 1983. The draft Report was adopted by the Committee on 8 December, 1983.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters :—

- I. Report
- II. Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government.
- III. Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.
- IV. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.
- V. Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 48th Report of Estimates Committee is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 36 recommendations made in the Report, 30 recommendations *i.e.* 83.3% have been accepted by the Government, and the Committee do not desire to pursue any recommendation in view of Government's replies. Replies of Government in respect of 3 recommendations *i.e.* 8.3% have not been accepted by the Committee. Final replies in respect of 3 recommendations *i.e.* 8.3% are still awaited.

NEW DELHI;
December 9, 1983
Agrahayana 18. 1905 (S)

* 
BANSI LAL,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1. 1 This Report of the Estimates Committee deals with Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their 48th Report (7th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Works and Housing—Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation, presented to the Lok Sabha on the 28th April, 1983.

1. 2 Action Taken Notes on the recommendations of the Committee have been categorised as follows :—

- (1) Recommendations/Observations that have been accepted by Government :—

Sl. Nos. 1 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 19, 21, 22, 23, 25 to 28, 30 to 35.
(30 Recommendations—Chapter II).

- (2) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply :—

NIL—Chapter III

- (3) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee :—

Sl. Nos. 6, 14 and 29.
(3 Recommendations—Chapter IV)

- (4) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are awaited :—

Sl. Nos. 20, 24 and 36
(3 Recommendations—Chapter V)

1. 3 The Committee will now deal with the action taken by Government on some of their recommendations.

Test-Check of Water Supply Schemes

(Recommendation Sl. No. 6 — Para 2. 28-A).

1. 4 The Estimates Committee in para 2. 28-A of their 48th Report on Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation emphasised that mere collection of

statistics about number of villages covered under the Drinking Water Supply Scheme was not enough. There should be a system of regular inspections and at least test-check by a joint team of officers of the Ministry of Works and Housing and of the State Governments to see whether the people in the problem villages reported to have been covered, were actually receiving the drinking water and assess the problems. In this context the Committee desired that the Ministry should verify and report to the Committee whether the benefit of the following regional rural water supply schemes had actually reached the population of the villages covered by these Schemes :—

- (i) Palari Siddhan Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Jodhpur (Raj.).
- (ii) Gandhi Vidya Mandir Sardar Sahar Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj.).
- (iii) Chandgethi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj.).
- (iv) Shambhugarh Regional Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj.).

1.5 The Ministry in their reply have stated that the C.P.H.E.E.O. is proposed to be strengthened through the opening of regional offices for better monitoring of the rural water supply programme. More inspections will then be possible. As regards the functioning of the rural water supply schemes indicated in the Recommendation, the Ministry have stated that the position as ascertained from the Chief Engineer of the State Government is as follows :—

- (i) *Palari Siddhan Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Jodhpur (Raj.).*

The scheme covers 13 villages and some of their dhanies. The total supply envisaged in the scheme was 3 lakh gallons per day while at present the supply is only 1.17 lakh gallons per day due to limited availability of power and non-release of power connection for intermediate boosting. Water is not, therefore, being supplied to some of the villages and dhanies. The Government of Rajasthan propose to improve the situation by connecting the tubewell at Bhopalgarh with intermediate boosting at Nadatoda and development of two tubewells at Kharja Baghi.

- (ii) *Gandhi Vidya Mandir Sardar Sahar Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj).*

This scheme covers 23 villages. It has been reported that all the villages are getting water except two tail end villages. The problem is limited power supply. The Rajasthan State Electricity Board is being requested by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department of the State Government to increase the hours of power supply.

- (iii) *Chandgethi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj).*

In the Chandgethi Sulkharia Scheme, 12 tail end villages do not get water as the production of water is insufficient to meet the demand. The demand of cattle has not been included in the design of the scheme and, as a result, pilferage and breakage of lines take place frequently at a number of places. The Chief Engineer, PHED Rajasthan feels that if sufficient supply is to be assured, alternative sources of water like the Rajasthan canal have to be tapped.

- (iv) *Shambhugarh Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj).*

To provide water supply to Shambhugarh village, a traditional source scheme was sanctioned in 1979. It was proposed to instal a pumping set on a traditional well to commission this scheme. This scheme was commissioned in March, 1980. Due to severe drought, the well went dry. The scheme was augmented with six handpumps in 1981-82. As on 13.8. 1983, five of the six handpumps were working."

1. 6 **The result of verification in respect of water supply schemes mentioned in Para 2.28 (A) of the Original Report intimated to the Committee confirms the doubt of the Committee that the coverage of villages and population under the drinking water supply schemes is not in accordance with what is claimed. This underlines the urgent need for introduction of a system of regular inspections and test checks by a joint team of officers of the Central and State Governments to see whether the problem villages reported to have been covered by the drinking water supply schemes are actually receiving safe drinking water or not and, in latter case, to identify the problem and find a solution therefor. The Committee have been informed that CPHEEO is proposed to be strengthened for better monitoring of the rural water supply programme and more inspections will then be possible. They hope that this assurance to the Committee will fructify soon and a regular system of inspections**

and follow up of completed schemes would be introduced without delay

1.7 So far as the situation reported in respect of the four drinking water supply schemes mentioned in the recommendation is concerned, the Committee find that in the case of two schemes, namely Gandhi Vidya Mandir, Sardar Sahar, Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj.) and Palari Siddan Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme Distt. Jodhpur (Raj.), the reason for coverage being lesser than envisaged is non-availability or limited availability of power for boosting. This indicates lack of coordination between the two Departments of the State Government and also between State and Central Governments. The Committee would like the Central Government to intervene in the matter and see that the benefits of the schemes actually flow to all the villages which were supposed to have been covered under the schemes.

1.8 As regards the Chandgethi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme Distt. Churu (Raj.), it has been admitted by Government that the existing scheme has been found insufficient as the demand for cattle had not been included in the design of the scheme and this had resulted in frequent pilferage and breakage of lines. The Committee have already recommended in Para 3.11 of the Original Report that the per capita daily norms of consumption for rural population should be suitably raised having regard to the needs of domestic animals. Government have accepted this recommendation and informed the Committee that it has been decided that in the future the rural water supply programme should also provide for the needs of domestic animals. The Committee regret that the Government have so far been neglecting the drinking water needs of the domestic cattle which are an integral part of every family in the rural areas. The Committee would like the Central Government to examine the problem in consultation with the State Government and take such measures as may be necessary.

Classification of Problem Villages

Recommendation. Sl. No. 13—Para 3.27

1.9 The Committee in their 48th Report had stated that according to the present criteria, for the purpose of providing drinking water on a priority basis a problem village was one where there was no assured source of drinking water within a reasonable distance of say 1.6 km. The Committee consi-

dered that the distance of 1.6 km. to be covered for fetching drinking water could not be regarded as a "reasonable distance". One had to reckon with the hardship faced by the rural women folk in carrying water on their heads for long distance spending enormous energy and time and exposing themselves to the risk of variety of ailments. They recommended that all such villages which did not have an assured source of water within a distance of 0.5 km. should be classified as problem villages for the purpose of taking up water supply schemes on a priority basis. All the additional villages coming under the category of 'Problem Villages' so revised should be covered by drinking water supply schemes by the end of Seventh Plan Period.

1.10 The Ministry in their reply have stated that "the Planning Commission has constituted a Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation for the Seventh Five Year Plan. This recommendation will be brought to the notice of the Working Group. The Planning Commission would take a view on this item after the Working Group submits its report. Further, during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (April 1981 to March 1991), the target is to provide 100% of the rural population with safe drinking water facilities."

1.11 While making the recommendation, the Committee were aware of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-91) Programme, according to which the target was to provide hundred per cent of the rural population with safe drinking water facility by the end of March 1991. The consideration before the Committee was that in case it was, for any reason, not possible to reach the "Decade" target, at least such villages as did not have an assured source of water within a distance of 0.5 km. should be covered by water supply schemes by the end of the 7th Plan period. While the Committee hope that the target set in the Decade Programme would be achieved, they would like the Ministry to take up, while implementing the programme, Water Supply Schemes in the villages which did not have an assured source of water within a distance of 0.5 km. on a priority basis.

Interse Priority of Problem Villages

Recommendation SI, No. 14—Para No. 3.28

1.12 The Committee had recommended that since Central Government had some responsibility in regard to rural water supply, the *interse* priority of problem villages for covering acute problem villages on emergent basis should be decided by the States in consultation with the Centre.

1. 13 In their reply the Ministry have stated that the target under the new 20-Point Programme is to cover all the identified problem villages with at least one source of safe drinking water during the Sixth Plan period. The question of introducing a further priority for acute problem villages by Centre should not, therefore, normally arise. Besides, in a large country like India involving more than 2 lakh problem villages, it does not appear to be practicable for the Central Government to take a rational decision about the priority for particular villages. On the other hand the Ministry feels that the States or the local administrations, which are closer to the problem areas, will be in a better position to decide on such *inter se* priorities on a rational basis.

1. 14 In the course of the examination of the subject of drinking water supply and sanitation, the Committee had noted that out of about 2.31 lakh "problem villages" proposed to be covered by drinking water supply programme during the 6th Plan period, only about 96,000 villages were likely to be covered by the end of 1982-83. The break-up of this coverage during the first three years of the 6th Plan was : 1980-81 : 25,978, 1981-82 : 29,837 and 1982-83 : 40,000 (estimated). The Committee were also informed that the Ministry needed more funds in order to successfully conclude the programme by the time target. In order to complete the programme in the last two years of the 6th Plan the Government had to mobilise adequate financial and physical resources to cover nearly 70,000 villages during each of the remaining two years of the Plan period which was much more than what the Government was able to achieve annually during the first three years of the Plan. In this context the Committee had recommended that *inter se* priority of "problem villages" for covering "acute problem villages" on emergent basis should be decided by the States in consultation with the Centre so that villages where the problem of drinking water was "acute" could be covered earlier than the remaining problem villages. The Ministry has, however, stated that it does not appear to be practicable for the Central Government to take a rational decision about the priority for particular villages." The Committee strongly feel that the Centre should be in a position to satisfy themselves that *inter se* priority has been correctly assigned by the States. This need not involve a decision of the Centre in each case. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their recommendation to this extent.

Disease Control Measures

Recommendation Sl. No. 23 —Para 3. 79

1. 15 The Committee had recommended that it should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to give wide publicity to the disease control

measures being taken by that Ministry and also to educate the people in regard to preventive hygiene, detection and immediate help to patients through the production of and distribution of publicity material, advertisements in the Press and TV/Radio features.

1. 16 In their reply the Ministry of Works and Housing have stated that "the recommendation has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health for necessary action."

1. 17 The Committee would await concrete action being taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in this regard and would like to be apprised of it in six months time.

Maintenance of Hand-pumps

Recommendation Sl. No. 29—Para 4. 35

1. 18 The Committee in para 4. 35 of their 48th Report had stated that it was imperative that the hand-pumps installed under the water supply programme were properly maintained and, in the case of a break-down, promptly repaired. At present, after the hand-pumps had been installed and handed over to the local bodies, there was no system of collecting periodical information as to how many of them were lying idle on account of break-downs which could not be attended to and for how many days. Since the benefit of the expenditure on the Drinking Water Supply Programme depended on the continued operation of the hand pumps, the Committee desired a survey being made of handpumps installed under the programme so far to find out how many of them were actually functioning and how many were not functioning and for what reasons. The Committee also desired to be apprised of the results of the survey along with a statement showing State-wise the number of non-functioning hand-pumps.

1. 19 For the future, the Committee recommended that there should be a regular system of monitoring information on the operation of the hand-pumps either at the State level or at the Central level for concurrent appraisal of the problems and taking corrective measures.

1. 20 The Ministry have in their reply stated that the use of deepwell handpump in the hard rock area gained momentum after 1970. The hand-pumps that were available then were just not fit for community use. With the help of WHO, UNICEF, State Govts., CSIR, Richardson & Cruddas (the

Public Sector Undertaking) etc., the development work of a suitable deepwell handpump was taken up. The initial design based on field test and trial run was suitably modified and later based on satisfactory performance an Indian Standard was brought out in 1979. The improvement on the same (India Mark-II) is still continuing to give a trouble free maintenance, to withstand the pressure of community use, etc. The specification has since been revised in 1982. The development is still continuing.

1.21 The earlier type of handpumps that were installed in the programme which are of poor design, go out of order frequently and are progressively replaced and rejuvenated so that the source developed could be continuously used.

1.22 A series of meetings was held with the State Govts., to discuss the proper upkeep of the deepwell handpump in the programme. This survey revealed that about 5 to 10% of the pumps would be out of order at a given time for various reasons from minor repairs to major replacement of certain inner parts. The details may be seen in the following Table :—

Sl. No.	State	No. of handpumps installed		Percentage of non-functioning of hand-pumps	
		Indian Mark-II	Other types		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61,677	16,501	78,178	10
2.	Bihar	27,000	—	27,000	10 to 15
3.	Gujarat	2,600	—	2,600	5 to 10
4.	Karnataka	56,000	17,000	73,000	10
5.	Madhya Pradesh	35,000	28,000	63,000	10
6.	Maharashtra	33,434	—	33,434	11
7.	Orissa	31,000	—	31,000	5
8.	Rajasthan	35,000	—	35,000	10
9.	Tamil Nadu	42,000	8,000	50,000	5
10.	Uttar Pradesh	20,000	—	20,000	5 to 10
11.	West Bengal	16,000	13,000	29,000	5 to 10

1.23 The State Govts. have been requested to monitor the level of operation of the deepwell handpumps and examine the reasons of non-functioning or mal-functioning due to insufficient deep digging, bad workmanship, poor quality equipment, improper maintenance etc. or any other reasons and take suitable action.

1. 24 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Govt. While admitting that the earlier type of handpumps that were installed are of poor design and go out of order frequently, Govt. have reported that 5 to 15% of the hand-pumps installed in various States are not functioning for various reasons. Based on the information made available to them by non-official sources that a sizeable number of hand-pumps installed under the Drinking Water Supply Scheme were not functioning, the Committee had desired a survey being made of hand-pumps installed to find out the magnitude of the problem so that remedial measures could be taken. Instead, it seems that the Ministry have furnished to the Committee only rough estimates of non-functioning handpumps reported to them by the State Govts. at meetings held with them "to discuss the proper up-keep of the deep well hand-pumps installed under the programme." The Committee would like the Ministry to appreciate the spirit behind the recommendation and direct the CPHEEO, the Central agency concerned, to draw up a programme of inspections of handpumps installed so far by joint teams of Central and State Govts. officers to find out the size of the problem and take remedial measures on urgent basis. It is needless to emphasise that, beside the efforts being made to increase the coverage of villages and population by the installation of new handpumps under the Drinking Water Supply Scheme, it is absolutely necessary to ensure that the handpumps already installed under the scheme are fully operational so that the benefit of the scheme actually reaches the rural masses.

Implementation of Recommendations

1. 25 The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Government. They would, therefore, urge that Government should keep a close watch so as to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommendations accepted by them. In cases where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

1. 26 The Committee also desire that final replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter V of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sr. No. 1, Para No. 1. 13)

The Committee note that the functions of the Central Government in the matter of drinking water supply and sanitation are limited to arranging training and technical guidance and granting financial assistance to the States and Union Territories as well as monitoring the progress of the Centrally sponsored schemes. In view of the great importance of providing these basic amenities and the poor progress as well as the skewed pattern of development noted elsewhere in this Report, the Committee feel that Central Government ought to be involved better inter alia augmenting the Central allocation of funds for this purpose. India is a signatory to the U.N. Resolution in regard to safe water supply and hygienic waste disposal and has pledged for full support to the international decade programme. It is, therefore, incumbent on the Central Government to ensure fulfilment of the international commitment.

Reply of Government

This recommendation was brought to the notice of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, while appreciating the need for fulfilment of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade commitment, has mentioned that the Commission has already initiated action to constitute a Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation in connection with the formulation of the 7th Plan (1985-90). The Working Group has since been constituted on 19.9.83. The Working Group is expected to look into various aspects and suggest appropriate strategy and policy to be adopted for the 7th Plan for fulfilment of the Decade objectives. The Planning Commission has added that it would be in a position to take a view after the Working Group's report is available.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 2, Para No. 1. 14)

A major part of the functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of

Works and Housing on the subject of drinking water supply and sanitation are being handled by the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) which is the technical Wing of the Ministry. The Organisation has been entrusted with a variety of functions. The strength of officers and staff of the Organisation in position, however, appears to the Committee to be far too inadequate to discharge these functions effectively. The Committee would particularly lay stress on proper monitoring of the water supply and sanitation programmes being implemented all over the country and scrutiny of progress reports received from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, making on-the-spot studies and taking corrective steps where necessary. The Secretary (Works and Housing) observed before the Committee that "considering the size of the task and the increased involvement of the Government of India in a programme which is widespread, both in the rural and urban areas, we think it is necessary to strengthen it (CPHEEO) further." The Committee recommend that the organisation should be adequately strengthened in quantitative and qualitative terms to function effectively as an apex body for guiding, coordinating and monitoring the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme of the country. The Committee would also suggest that the Organisation should be given a statutory basis as has been done in the case of Central Water Commission.

Reply of Government

Action has been initiated for strengthening the CPHEEO as recommended by the Estimates Committee. It has, however, been ascertained that the Central Water Commission is an attached office of the Ministry of Irrigation, and not a statutory body. Accordingly, the proposal under consideration is to give an attached office status to the CPHEEO and to strengthen that organisation including opening of regional offices for better monitoring of the water supply and sanitation programme.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation Sr. No. 3, Para Na. 2.26

Insofar as the supply of drinking water to rural areas is concerned, upto end of March 1981, only 16.20 crores of the rural population (i.e. 30.94 per cent) is reported to have been covered. Further, the detailed State-wise break up of the population covered furnished to the Committee indicates large imbalances as between different States/Union Territories in regard to the percentage of rural population covered. The coverage of rural population ranges between 7.20 in respect of Uttar Pradesh and 70.28 per cent in the case of

Gujarat. Besides Uttar Pradesh, the coverage is very poor in West Bengal (15.79 per cent), Assam (19.90 per cent), Maharashtra (19.19 per cent) Meghalaya (19.6 per cent) and Lakshadweep (8.5 per cent). Thus the need to step up the coverage as a whole and to concentrate on the states where the coverage is very poor has assumed a dimension and urgency which have to be appreciated and concerted steps taken in that direction. Such serious regional disparities in the basic amenities such as drinking water supply should not persist.

Reply of Government

The objective of the new 20-Point programme (Point No. 8—supply of drinking water to all problem villages) is to ensure safe drinking water to villages suffering from chronic scarcity or those with unsafe sources of water. During the Sixth Plan, the effort will be to cover all the identified problem villages with atleast one source of safe potable water available throughout the year. According to information available at present, about 1 lakh problem villages have been provided with drinking water facilities during the first three years of the Sixth Plan compared to about 95,000 problem villages which were covered by the beginning of the Sixth Plan. The substantial progress achieved in the first three years of the Sixth Plan is the result of urgent and concerted steps taken by the Govt. of India and the State Government. Government agrees that regional disparities in the basic amenities such as drinking water supply should not persist. While it is expected that considerable progress will be made before the end of the Sixth Plan in the States concerned to reduce the disparities in the availability of drinking water supply, the target proposed during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade is to provide drinking water supply facilities to 100% of the rural population of the country by March, 1991.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 4, Para No. 2, 27

The Committee would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Works & Housing to the acute problem of drinking water in the hilly areas and certain other areas of the country highlighted on the floor of the Lok Sabha time and again. They would like the Ministry to undertake, in coordination with the State Governments, special programmes for covering such areas in the shortest possible time.

Reply of Government

The reply given to Recommendation No. 3 would apply to this recommendation also. So far as the Sixth Plan is concerned, weightage is given to

the special category and backward States, which cover the hill and desert areas, in the allocation of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 5, Para No. 2.28)

The Committee note that in 1980-81 and 1981-82 the coverage of Scheduled Castes population was 12.60 and 14.88 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes population covered was 9.36 and 10.54 per cent respectively. They have also been informed during evidence that the Ministry of Works and Housing have taken steps to ensure that the needs of SC/ST are being met adequately and are watching the progress through quarterly reports from the State Govts., with regard to the number of villages/hamlets covered under the programme especially those dominantly populated by SC/ST. The Committee was assured during evidence that the scheme for providing drinking water supply in SC/ST areas was likely to be completed by 1985. They hope that this assurance would be implemented.

Reply of Government

Government's concern to ensure availability of drinking water to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the rural areas is reflected in the new 20-Point Programme (Point No. 8) which states that the needs of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes population in the rural areas will be given due priority in the implementation of this programme. Moreover, at the conference held with State Governments at the level of Ministers in February, 1982 and January, 1983, this aspect has been emphasised. The conference held in January, 1983 resolved, *inter alia*, that efforts may be made to locate every new source of water in areas inhabited by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, wherever it is not logistically and technically impossible to do so. According to information received from the State Governments and the Union Territory administrations so far, the population which benefited from the Rural Water Supply programme in the first three years of the Sixth Plan is as follows :

Year	Population (1971 census) of Problem Village benefited (in lakhs)		
	Total	S.C.	S.T.
1980-81	186.25	23.48 (12.60%)	17.40 (9.34%)
1981-82	234.41	34.91 (14.89%)	24.72 (10.55%)
1982-83 (Information incomplete)	273.92	43.76 (15.98%)	23.22 (8.48%)

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No.7, Para No. 2.29)

Although overall 75.08 per cent of the urban population has been covered by drinking water supply as on 31 March, 1981, the coverage is very low (less than 50 per cent) in Haryana (47.16 per cent) and the Eastern States of West Bengal (30.75 per cent); Sikkim (22.43 per cent); Assam (21.87 per cent); Meghalaya (28 per cent); Nagaland (20.07 per cent); Mizoram (14.7 per cent); Tripura (39.62 per cent) and Orissa (39.27 per cent). Inadequacy of resources of these states appears to be the main reason for this situation. At present Central Government has no responsibility in regard to urban water supply in the States. The Committee desire that a centrally sponsored scheme for urban areas limited to States where the provision of drinking water is woefully inadequate should be evolved and put through to correct these serious imbalance. Further Central monitoring covering comprehensively the population in rural and urban areas should be done for suggesting corrective steps and providing assistance, technical and otherwise, where necessary.

Reply of Government

The desirability of having a Centrally Sponsored scheme not only for rural water supply but also for urban water supply, urban sanitation and rural sanitation in the Seventh Plan has been brought to the notice of the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission have constituted a Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation for the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90. The Working Group will, *inter alia*, review the existing water supply and sanitation programmes in the Central & State sectors and suggest suitable changes. The Planning Commission will be in a position to take a view after the Working Group's report is available. As regards more comprehensive Central monitoring, this is proposed to be achieved after the CPHEEO is strengthened in the manner indicated in the reply to Recommendation No. 2.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 8, Para No. 3.10)

The Ministry of Works & Housing are not in a position to state the per capita availability of protected drinking water in the rural areas. This the Committee feel is necessary to be computed State/Union Territory-wise in order to assess the extent of requirement of augmentation of facilities. The Committee hope that the Ministry would build up adequate data base in the

context of ensuring a rational policy and programme of provision of facilities in a planned manner.

Reply of Government

Action has been initiated to build up an adequate data base. The State Governments have been requested to furnish the information for this purpose.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 9, Para No. 3.11)

The Committee consider that the norm of minimum of 40 litres per capita daily for rural population is too low even for the need of the human beings. Besides, each farmer family has a certain number of animals also which would need water for drinking and the importance of these animals to the life and health of human beings and especially to the farmers needs no emphasis. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the norm should be suitably raised having regard to the needs of domestic animals.

Reply of Government

It has been decided that in future the rural water supply programme should also provide for the needs of domestic animals. It is, however, felt that, in most of the States, there is no need for including the requirements of the domestic animals in the water supply programme. In most cases, cattle depend on local ponds and other water collections for their requirements. The need for inclusion of the drinking water supply requirements of domestic animals in the rural water supply schemes may be specific to certain States and also specific to certain areas within State. State Governments have accordingly been requested to indicate whether there is need to include the drinking water requirements of domestic animals in the rural water supply schemes in the State as a whole or in certain specific areas. It is proposed to consider the projects forwarded by the State Governments on merits and allow for the requirements of domestic animals on a realistic basis.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 10, Para No. 3.12)

The Committee observe wide variation as between States in the per capita availability of drinking water in urban areas ranging from 10 litres to 400 litres daily. The Committee recommend that priority should be given to drinking water supply schemes for urban areas in States where the per capita availability is less than the minimum norm of 70 litres per capita daily.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of the State Governments as urban water supply schemes are financed entirely with State funds. During the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (April 1981 to March, 1991), the following priorities in regard to urban water supply are to be kept in view by all State Governments, as agreed to at the conference held with State Government representatives on the 3rd February, 1982.

- (i) safe drinking water to uncovered towns or uncovered urban areas;
- (ii) rehabilitation of urban water supply;
- (iii) augmentation of urban water supply systems.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 11, Para No. 3.25)

The Committee are disappointed to find that out of about 2.31 lakh "problem villages" proposed to be covered by drinking water supply programme during the 6th Plan period, only about 96,000 villages are likely to be covered by the end of 1982-83. Looking at the achievements made so far, the Committee fear that the target laid down for the 6th Plan period may not be attained unless the Ministry of Works and Housing and the State Governments double up their efforts during the last two years of the Plan period. The Committee trust that the Ministry of Works and Housing and the State Governments should be able to mobilise adequate financial and physical resources to so intensify the programmes as to be able to cover nearly 70,000 villages during each of the remaining two years of the Plan period for attaining the target laid down for the Plan period.

Reply of Government

According to the information available at present, about 1 lakh problem villages have been provided with drinking water facilities by the end of 1982-83 in the Sixth Plan period. At the conference of State Ministers and officials held on the 19th January, 1983, it was resolved that all State Governments and Union Territory administrations may take urgent steps to step up the pace of implementation of the 20-Point Programme to provide atleast one source of safe drinking water to all the identified problem villages during the remaining period of the Sixth Plan. The outlay for the programme has also been increased to about Rs. 518 crores for the year 1983-84, compared to about Rs. 412 crores for the year 1982-83. Besides, an additional outlay of Rs 75 crores will be available during the year 1983-84 to provide additional Central assistance to States and Union territories as reward, if their performance exceeds the targets fixed under the normal programme. The target under the normal programme for the year 1983-84 is to cover 84,846 problem villages. This does not include the coverage expected with the special outlay of Rs. 75 crores. The Planning Commission have also assured that they would take all necessary measures to the maximum extent possible in so far as the provision of funds during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan is concerned.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 12, Para No. 3.26)

The Committee note the assurance given to them by Secretary (Works and Housing) during evidence that his Ministry would consider the question of giving priority in the matter of supply of drinking water to such villages as are in dire need of water supply and are prepared to contribute 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme, the other 50 per cent being borne by the State Government or the Central Government. The Committee would like to be apprised of the result of consideration of this question.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Works and Housing would welcome contributions from the people in the problem villages towards the cost of drinking water supply schemes, as this would increase the availability of resources for the programme and help in achieving the 20-Point programme target. The recommenda-

tion has been brought to the notice of State Governments and such projects will be considered for Central assistance as and when they are received.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 13, Para No. 3.27)

According to the present criteria, for the purpose of providing drinking water on a priority basis a problem village is one where there is no assured source of drinking water within a reasonable distance of say 1.6 km. The Committee consider the distance of 1.6 km. to be covered for fetching drinking water could not be regarded as a "reasonable distance". One has to reckon with the hardship faced by the rural womenfolk in carrying water on their head for long distance sporting enormous energy and time and exposing themselves to the risk of variety of ailments. They recommend that all such villages which do not have an assured source of water within a distance of 0.5 km. should be classified as problem villages for the purpose of taking up water supply schemes on a priority basis. All the additional villages coming under the category of 'Problem Villages' so revised should be covered by drinking water supply schemes by the Seventh Plan Period.

Reply of Government

The Planning Commission has constituted a Working Group on Water Supply and Sanitation for the Seventh Five Year Plan. This recommendation will be brought to the notice of the Working Group. The Planning Commission would take a view on the item after the Working Group submits its report. Further, during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (April 1981 to March 1991), the target is to provide 100% of the rural population with safe drinking water facilities.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 15, Para No. 3.45)

The Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARP) was introduced for the first time in 1972-73 and after being in operation for a period of two years was wound up in 1973-74 in pursuance of the policy to reduce the number of Centrally sponsored schemes. The Committee note that the initial operation of the programme for two years was not properly planned and monitored. The scheme was reintroduced in 1977-78 because the progress of the water supply schemes under the Minimum Needs

Programme was found to be not adequate and it was decided to have a Centrally sponsored supplementary programme by way of "incentive" to the State Governments. The Committee regret that such an important scheme was not only not conceived and put through properly in the initial stage but also abandoned for 3 years. If only the scheme had been properly planned, monitored and executed uninterruptedly the position in regard to drinking water supply in rural areas would have been far better than what it is today.

Reply of Government

The observations of the Estimates Committee have been noted. The Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme is now planned and monitored more efficiently than was done in 1972-73 and 1973-74. As a result, according to information collected so far, about 1 lakh problem villages have been provided with safe drinking water facilities during the first three years of the Sixth Plan compared to about 95,000 problem villages which were covered by the beginning of the Sixth Plan.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 16, Para No. 3.46)

The Committee recommend that the system of release of grant to State under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme should be such as to facilitate orderly progress of water supply programme undertaken by the States. The Committee would like the Ministry of Works & Housing to ascertain the difficulties encountered by the States in the matter of release of grants by the Centre under the Programme and try to simplify and streamline the procedure.

Reply of Government

Informal consultations with State Government representatives reveal that what they need is an advance indication of the grant expected to be available during a year so that they can plan their programme of work accordingly. The procedure followed at present fulfils this requirement. Under the present procedure, not only is each State informed about the grant that is allocated to it during a financial year but also 50% of the grant is released in advance to facilitate commencement of work on approved schemes. The second instalment is released later in the year on receipt of the utilisation certificate for the grant released in the previous financial year. It is considered that this procedure satisfies the essential requirements of both the Central and State Governments. The State Governments have, however, been addressed in the matter and if they still encounter difficulties under the present system, attempts will be made to remove them as far as possible.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No.H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No 17, Para No. 3.62)

The Committee note that for achieving the targets of coverage of population under the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme laid down for the Sixth Five Year Plan, the Ministry have, apart from the allocation of Rs. 2044.11 crores, suggested an additional allocation of Rs. 1500 crores for this purpose. This, it is stated, is under the consideration of the Planning Commission. The Committee hope that in view of the magnitude and urgency of the drinking Water Supply and Sanitation problem in the country, necessary funds would be made available.

Reply of Government

Insofar as the provision of funds during the remaining years of the Sixth Plan for providing safe drinking water supply to problem villages under the new 20-Point Programme is concerned, the Planning Commission have assured that they are equally keen to achieve this objective and that they would take all necessary measures to the best possible extent.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10 83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 18, Para No. 3.63)

The Life Insurance Corporation has also been providing loans to the local bodies/statutory water supply and sewerage Boards in the States for financing water supply and sewerage schemes. Currently the contribution of LIC for this purpose is to the extent of 6 to 7 per cent of the corporation investible funds. This has been counted as plan fund. The LIC is stated to have agreed to step it up to 8 per cent. The Committee desire that the plan allocation should be augmented to the extent of this increase in the contribution of LIC.

Reply of Government

L.I.C.'s contribution is part of the Plan. To the extent that this contribution increases, the size of the Plan will also normally be increased. The Working Group appointed by the Planning Commission for the Seventh Plan will recommend the outlays for the water supply

and sanitation sector keeping view, in among others, the feasibility of additional resource mobilisation through the L.I.C.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 19, Para No. 3.75)

Any drinking water supply programme must ensure that the water made available for drinking purposes is uncontaminated and safe for the health of the local populace. Drinking Water supply schemes in the urban areas generally depend upon river or water stored in natural reservoir or tanks, which is distributed through a net work of pipelines. In the rural areas drinking water is taken out of natural reservoirs where rain water is stored or wells or hand pumps. Whether the water is underground or overground (in rivers or reservoirs), it is susceptible to contamination by human waste or industrial waste. Contamination of water by non-effective disposal of human waste is a serious problem over which at present there is no control. The local bodies which are responsible for sanitation and human waste disposal do not have adequate funds to do a thorough job of it. Unless water supply and waste disposal are viewed as parts of an integrated programme, safe drinking water supply cannot be ensured. The Committee would, therefore, suggest that this aspect should be seriously considered by the Ministry and appropriate action initiated to have coordinated implementation of the schemes all over the country.

Reply of Government

Government agrees that it would be desirable to have coordinated implementation of water supply and waste disposal schemes. However, this has not occurred in practice and, as a result, the backlog in the availability of waste disposal facilities is considerably larger than in the availability of water supply facilities. The situation is expected to be remedied to a certain extent by the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (April 1981–March 1991). The recommendation will also be considered by the Working Group for the 7th Plan which has been constituted by the Planning Commission and which will recommend the outlays in the 7th Plan, inter alia, for urban and rural sanitation.

The recommendation has also been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 21, Para No. 3.77)

The Committee find that the Water Pollution Control Act, 1974, does not cover the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and five North-Eastern Hill states. Thus, areas of large concentration of industries comprised in these States remain excluded from the purview of the Act. The Committee are unaware as to how the problem of water pollution by industrial effluents coming out of industries in these States is to be tackled. The Committee would like the Ministry of Works and Housing to emphasise on these State Governments the importance and need of action on their part to compel the relevant pollutionary industries within the State to set up effluent treatment plant as soon as possible.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Works and Housing has written to the State Governments concerned as recommended by the Estimates Committee. It may, however, be mentioned that the Water Pollution Control Act 1974 extends to Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu also. Orissa has also adopted the Act recently.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83.)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 22, Para No. 3.78)

Water contamination could also be due to defective or worn out water supply pipes in the distribution system. The Committee would therefore like the Ministry of Works & Housing to enjoin upon the State Governments the need for a periodical inspection of water supply pipelines and replacement of pipes which have outlived their lives already. In future only quality pipes should be used so that even if cost goes up, the risk of their deterioration causing water pollution is minimised.

Reply of Government

All State Governments have been addressed as recommended by the Estimrates Committee.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83.]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 23, Para No. 3.79)

The Committee consider that it should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to give wide publicity to the disease control measures being taken by that Ministry and also to educate the people in regard to preventive hygiene, detection and immediate help to patients through the production of and distribution of publicity material, advertisements in the Press and TV/ Radio features.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been forwarded to the Ministry of Health for necessary action.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83.]

Recommendation (Sr. No . 25, Para No. 4.8)

The Ministry of Works & Housing have the nodal responsibility for the successful implementation of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme according to the targets laid down. The committee, therefore, expect that the Ministry would in coordination with the other Ministries concerned, arrange for all the material e.g. Steel Cement, G.I.Pipes etc. being made available to the State Governments according to their assessed requirements for executing the programme.

Reply of Governments

The Ministry of Works and Housing has already taken action to allocate a special quota of cement to State Government for implementation of water supply and sanitation programmes. There is no shortage at present of other materials. The situation is being regularly monitored and suitable action will be taken wherever the situation warrants.

[Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 26, Para No. 4.9)

In view of the shortage of Pig Iron and Cement and also of the fact that Stoneware pipes are cheaper, the Committee would suggest that in the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, attempt may be made to use wherever possible without compromising on quality of pipeline, Stoneware pipes instead of G.I. pipes or concrete pipes.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been brought to the notice of State Governments.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 7.10.83].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 27, Para No 4.20)

The Committee fail to understand the basis on which the drilling rigs received from UNICEF as gift have been distributed among the various States. They note that among the States having hard rock areas, while Uttar Pradesh has been allocated 5 drilling rigs and West Bengal 6 drilling rigs, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been allotted as many as 32, 34 and 20 rigs respectively. The Committee wonder whether it is possible to correct this imbalance in the matter of distribution of imported drilling rigs at this stage. If it is possible, steps should be taken to correct the situation to the extent possible.

Reply of Government

The development of ground water for drinking water supply as a low-cost solution in the consolidated formation, especially in the hard rock terrain, was a difficult proposition. The deployment of down-the-hole hammer (DTH) rigs through the UNICEF assistance, starting from 1968-69, provided a successful answer in this direction.

Nearly 75% of the country's area lies in the hard rock terrain and most of it is below Gangetic plain mainly concentrated in the Deccan plateau covering the Central, Western and Southern parts of the country. Thus the pure hard rock rigs received from UNICEF upto 1976-77 were used in the hard rock terrain States. These rigs are mostly

used to drill 4/4½" diameters' bores in the hard rock area where hand-pumps are installed. The distribution of the rigs is based on the type of geology where the rigs could be employed; the problems to be tackled; the manpower available with the State and; other relevant technical factors.

The hardrock rigs, that were made available to the States through UNICEF before 1978, are known as 'First generation rigs' and most of them have outlived their operational life span. These types of low and medium capacity hard rock rigs are presently manufactured in the country. Many of the States have purchased the indigenous rigs for their programmes and these details are also included in the Table given at pages 44/45 of the Estimates Committee report.

From 1979, new generation rigs of higher capacity are being received through UNICEF which are useful in tackling limited unconsolidated-overburden formations as well as consolidated (hard rock) formation. These rigs are being used based on the type of geology of different States; the problem to be tackled etc. The Table below gives the distribution of these new generation rigs based on the respective geological conditions encountered in the particular State.

TABLE

Distribution of UNICEF Supplied New Generation Rigs After 1978.

STATE	NO. OF RIGS
1. Andhra Pradesh	6
2. Bihar	7
3. Gujarat	2
4. Karnataka	4
5. Kerala	2
6. Madhya Pradesh	8
7. Maharashtra	3
8. Orissa	7
9. Rajasthan	4
10. Tamil Nadu	4
11. Uttar Pradesh	4
12. West Bengal	5
	56

[Ministry of Works and Housing O.M. NO. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 28, Para No. 4.21)

The Committee are constrained to observe that the utilisation of the drilling rigs has been not more than 60 per cent. Although, various reasons have been adduced for this under-utilisation, the fact remains that the Ministry of Works and Housing have not been getting regular feed-back in regard to the operation of the rigs which were financed out of Central Funds or which were received as gifts from abroad. Now that the Ministry have decided to improve the system for monitoring of the performance of these rigs the committee hope that it should be possible for the Ministry to ensure optimum utilisation of the rigs, by making concerted efforts to remove the handicaps which come in the way of their utilisation. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of monitoring during the next six months along-with a statement showing, state-wise, the percentage of utilisation of drilling rigs.

Reply of Government

The rigs that were made available to the State Govts. under the UNICEF programme cover a period of nearly 14 years. The rigs given to the States prior to 1978 are known as 'first generation rigs' and they have outlived their operational life now. The rigs made available later known as 'new generation rigs' are being now examined for their utilisation. The performance of these rigs, deployed in the hard rock States, depends on many factors like movement of the rigs between the operation sites (to provide at least one source per village), the type of terrain to be traversed, logistics of spare parts movement, service facilities etc. These handicaps are being tackled in a concerted manner and the utilisation of the rigs is being improved.

The utilisation of the drilling rigs, Statewise is presented in the table (Table I+II). The performance of the rigs has been taken for two periods namely, Jan-Dec'82 (12 months) and Jan-June' 83 (6 months) and the utilisation in terms of bores and depth drilled per rig per month for these periods, have been worked out and compared. The number of bores drilled per rig per month for the period Jan-June, 1983 shows an improvement over the period Jan-December, 1982. Similarly, the depth drilled also shows a better utilisation of the rigs.

TABLE I
Drilling Performance of UNICEF Rigs
 (January-December, 1982)

S. No.	State	No. of rigs	Operational months	Bore holes drilled	Total depth drilled	Bores drilled/ed/rig months	Depth drilled/rig month
1.	Andha Pradesh	6	48	308	13449.0	6.42	280.19
2.	Bihar	5	55	552	27851.7	10.04	506.39
3.	Gujarat	2	15	279	12937.0	18.60	862.47
4.	Karnataka	2	24	193	11387.3	8.04	474.47
5.	Kerala	2	24	40	207.0	1.67	121.13
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8	79	535	31118.0	6.77	393.90
7.	Maharashtra	3	25	183	16155.0	7.32	646.20
8.	Orissa	6	62	185	7643.0	2.98	123.27
9.	Rajasthan	3	29.5	379	19576.0	12.85	663.59
10.	Tamil Nadu	2	13	49	2880.0	3.77	221.54
11.	Uttar Pradesh	3	33	345	14265.0	10.45	432.23
12.	West Bengal	3	36	357	15337.0	9.92	426.03

TABLE H
Drilling Performance of UNICEF Rigs
 (January-June, 1982)

S. No.	State	No. of rigs	Operational months	Bore holes drilled	Total Depth drilled	Bores drilled/rig months	Depth drilled/rig month
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	36	335	15094.0	9.34	419.28
2.	Bihar	7	38	543	25774.0	14.29	678.18
3.	Gujarat	2	12	187	8652.0	15.56	721.00
4.	Karnataka	4	14.5	138	7704.0	9.94	591.10
5.	Kerala	2	12	35	3117.0	2.92	259.75
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8	48	696	39325.0	14.50	819.27
7.	Maharashtra	3	18	243	19320.0	13.50	4073.33
8.	Orissa	7	38	283	111,590	7.45	293.66
9.	Rajasthan	3	18	312	13492.0	17.33	749.56
10.	Tamil Nadu	4	17	95	6678.0	5.59	392.82
11.	Uttar Pradesh	3	18	272	10736.9	15.11	596.49
12.	West Bengal	3	18	179	7667.0	9.94	425.94

Recommendation (Sr. No. 30, Para No. 4.36)

The Committee would like the Ministry of Works & Housing to direct their officers that when they visit various States for assessing the progress of the drinking water supply programme they should also test check a few hand-pumps installed under the programme which may not be functioning and find out whether the non-functioning of the hand-pumps is on account of insufficiently deep digging, bad workmanship or poor quality of the equipment. The findings in the reports of these officers should be followed up by the Ministry of Works & Housing with the State Governments concerned.

Reply of Government

Instructions as desired by the Estimates Committee have been issued to the officers of the Ministry of Works & Housing. It is, however, felt that with the limited staff strength in the Ministry, it may not be possible to carry out the test checks adequately. Accordingly, the State Govts. have also been requested to have such test checks carried out by their senior officers and take corrective measures promptly. The States Govts. have also been requested to keep the information on the subject available with the Chief Engineers.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27.10.83].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 31, Para No. 5.13)

The Ministry of Works and Housing have admitted that so far little attention has been paid to sanitation in the urban as well as rural areas. At the beginning of the 6th Plan period (1981-82), the rural and urban population covered by sanitation scheme was only 0.53 per cent and 26.9 per cent of the total rural and urban population respectively.

The Committee find that the 6th Plan targets are none too impressive and in the case of rural and urban sanitation, coverage of only 1.47 per cent and 39.3 per cent of the projected total rural and urban population in 1985 has been planned for. Even the Decade Programme envisages coverage of 25 per cent of the rural population and 80 per cent of the urban population by sanitation scheme by the end of 1989-90. The achievement of targets of coverage under the Decade Programme will obviously depend upon allocation of adequate funds for

the purpose. The Committee would urge greater attention being paid to the provision of sanitation facilities in the urban and rural areas and allocation of adequate funds for the purpose if the large masses of our people are to be given a decent life free from filth and squalor.

Reply of Government

The Planning Commission has constituted a Working group on water supply & sanitation for the Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90. The Working group will, inter-alia, recommend the outlays in the Seventh Plan for Urban & Rural Sanitation.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 32, Para No. 6.17)

The Committee find that the training programmes linked to the implementation of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation programme are woefully inadequate. The inadequacy of the existing training programmes to meet the requirements of the Decade has been admitted by the Ministry of Works & Housing themselves. The committee expect that steps will be taken by the Ministry to extend the training facilities at various levels to meet the requirements of the Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Program.

Reply of Government

Action has been initiated to extend the training facilities in a phased manner. State Governments have been requested to sponsor as many of their officers as possible for the post-graduate, short term and refresher courses. Proposals are under consideration to include additional institution to conduct post-graduate and short-term courses with Central assistance. As regards refresher courses, the number of courses proposed for the current year is 27. It is planned to increase the number of courses to 30-35 by repeating some of the courses in 1984-85. The need for setting up training Centre in the States to impart training to categories of personnel like operators, mechanics, plumbers, etc. has been impressed upon the Chief Engineers of State Governments. Maha-

rashtra, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh have already initiated action in this regard.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 33. Para No. 6.18)

The Committee have been informed that the question of reviving Central support to Post Graduate Training Course in Public Health Engineering, which was suspended in 1981-82, is "under the active consideration of the Government". In view of the inadequacy of the trained technical manpower, the Committee would like an early decision to be taken in the matter.

Reply of Government

The Central support for post-graduate training course has been restored.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 34, Para No. 6.19)

The Committee recommend that, besides the Perarignar Anna University of Technology, Madras, short-term courses in Public Health Engineering Orientation should be available in a few other institutions also. The Ministry of Works and Housing should address technical institutions in the country to find out whether they would now be interested to introduce this course with the assistance of the Central Government.

Reply of Government

It is proposed to step up the training facilities in a phased manner in accordance with the capacity of the State Governments to spare their officers so that the training facilities created are not underutilised. It is proposed to address the Regional Engineering College in Nagpur to ascertain whether they could conduct short-term courses from the next year onwards. After assessing the response to the additional facilities

proposed to be provided at Nagpur, the question of addressing more institutions will be considered.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 35, Para No. 6.20)

There is merit in the suggestion for earmarking two per cent of the total investment for projects in the Decade Programme for strengthening infrastructural facilities of research institutions and undertakings, made by the Conference of Chief Engineers on Planning for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade. The Committee would like the Ministry to take an early decision on this recommendation of the conference.

Reply of Government

The proposal for strengthening infrastructural facilities for research and development project is accepted in principle. It is, however, felt that the question of earmarking of funds this purpose has to be considered in stages, depending upon the actual needs of an institution, its research capacity and related factors.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83].

CHAPTER III

**RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE
COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW
OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLY**

NIL

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Sr. No. 6, Para No. 2.28 A)

The Committee would like to emphasise that mere collection of statistics about number of villages covered under the Drinking Water Supply Scheme is not enough. There should be a system of regular inspections and at least testcheck by a joint team of officers of the Ministry of Works & Housing and of the State Governments to see whether the people in the problem villages reported to have been covered, are actually receiving the drinking water and assess the problems. In this context the Committee would like the Ministry to verify and report to the Committee whether the benefit of the following regional rural water supply schemes has actually reached the population of the villages covered by these schemes :-

- (i) Palari Siddhan Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Jodhpur (Raj).
- (ii) Gandhi Vidya Mandir Sardar Sahar Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj).
- (iii) Chandgethi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj).
- (iv) Sambhugarhi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj).

Recommendation No. 6

Reply of Government

The C.P.H.E.E.O. is proposed to be strengthened through the opening of regional offices for better monitoring of the rural water supply programme. More inspections will then be possible. As regards the

functioning of the rural water supply schemes indicated in the Recommendation, the position as ascertained from the Chief Engineer of the State Government is as follows :-

- (i) *Palari Siddhan Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Jodhpur (Raj.)*

The scheme covers 13 villages and some of their dhanies. The total supply envisaged in the scheme was 3 lakh gallons per day while at present the supply is only 1.17 lakh gallons per day due to limited availability of power and non-release of power connection for intermediate boosting. Water is not, therefore, being supplied to some of the villages and dhanies. The Government of Rajasthan propose to improve of situation by connecting the tubewell at Bhopalgarh with intermediate boosting at Nadatoda and development of two tubewells at Kharia Baghi.

- (ii) *Gandhi Vidya Mandir Sardar Sahar Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme. Distt. Churu (Raj.)*

This scheme covers 23 villages. It has been reported that all the villages are getting water except two tail end villages. The problem is limited power supply. The Rajasthan State Electricity Board is being requested by the Chief Engineer, Public Health Engineering Department of the State Government to increase the hours of power supply.

- (iii) *Chandgethi Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Churu (Raj.)*

In the Chandgethi Sulkharia scheme, 12 tail end villages do not get water as the production of water is insufficient to meet the demand. The demand of cattle has not been included in the design of the scheme and, as a result, pilferage and breakage of lines take place frequently at a number of places. The Chief Engineer, PHED, Rajasthan feels that if sufficient supply is to be assured, alternative sources of water like the Rajasthan canal have to be tapped.

- (iv) *Shambhugarh Regional Rural Water Supply Scheme, Distt. Bhilwara (Raj.)*

To provide water supply to Shambhugarh village, a traditional source scheme was sanctioned in 1979. It was proposed to instal a

pumping set on a traditional well to commission this scheme. The scheme was commissioned in March, 1980. Due to severe drought, the well went dry. The scheme was augmented with six handpumps in 1981-82. As on 13.8.1983, five of the six handpumps were working.

(Ministry of Works Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 14, Para No. 3.28)

The Committee further recommend that since Central Government have some responsibility in regard to rural water supply, the *interse* priority of problem villages for covering acute problem villages on emergent basis should be decided by the States in consultation with the Centre.

Reply of Government

The target under the new 20-Point Programme is to cover all the identified problem villages with at least one source of safe drinking water during the Sixth Plan period. The question of introducing a further priority for acute problem villages by the Centre should not, therefore, normally arise. Besides, in a large country like India involving more than 2 lakh problem villages, it does not appear to be practicable for the Central Government to take a rational decision about the priority for particular villages. It is felt, on the other hand, that the States or the local administrations, which are closer to the problem areas, will be in a better position to decide on such *interse* priorities on a rational basis.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83.

Recommendation (Sr. No. 29, Para No. 4.35)

It is imperative that the hand-pumps installed under the water supply programme are properly maintained and, in the case of a breakdown, promptly repaired. At present, after the hand-pumps are installed and handed over to the local bodies, there is no system of collecting periodical information as to how many of them are lying idle on account of break-downs which could not be attended to and for how many days. Since the public benefit of the expenditure made on the

Drinking Water Supply Programme depends on the continued operation of the handpumps, the Committee would like a survey to be made on hand pumps installed under the programme so far to find out how many of them are actually functioning and how many are not functioning and for what reasons. The Committee would like to be apprised of the results of the survey alongwith a statement showing Statewise, the number of non-functioning hand-pumps in six months time.

For the future, there should be a regular system of monitoring information on the operation of the hand-pumps either at the State level or at the Central level for current appraisal of the problems and taking corrective measures.

Reply of Government

The use of deepwell handpump in the hard rock area gained momentum after 1970. The handpump that were available then were just not fit for community use. With the help of WHO, UNICEF, State Governments, CSIR, Richardson & Cruddas (the Public Sector Undertaking) etc., the development work of a suitable deepwell handpump was taken up. The initial design based on field test and trial run was suitably modified and later based on satisfactory performance and Indian Standard was brought up in 1979. The improvement on the same (India Mark-II) is still continuing to give a trouble free maintenance, to withstand the pressure of community use, etc. The specification has since been revised in 1982. The development is still continuing.

The earlier type of handpumps that were installed in the programme which are of poor design, go out of order frequently and are progressively replaced and rejuvenated so that the source developed could be continuously used.

A series of meetings was held with the State Governments, to discuss the proper upkeep of the deepwell handpump in the programme. This survey revealed that about 5 to 10% of the pumps would be out of order at a given time for various reasons from minor repairs to major replacement of certain inner parts. The details may be seen in the following Table.

Sl. No.	State	No. of handpumps installed			Percentage of non-functioning of hand-pumps
		India Mark-II	Other types	Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61,677	16,501	78,178	10
2.	Bihar	27,000	—	27,000	10 to 15
3.	Gujarat	2,600	—	2,600	5 to 10
4.	Karnataka	56,000	17,000	73,000	10
5.	Madhya Pradesh	35,000	28,000	63,300	10
6.	Maharashtra	33,434	—	33,434	11
7.	Orissa	31,000	—	31,000	5
8.	Rajasthan	35,000	—	35,000	10
9.	Tamil Nadu	42,000	8,000	50,000	5
10.	Uttar Pradesh	20,000	—	20,000	5 to 10
11.	West Bengal	16,000	13,000	29,000	5 to 10

The State Governments, have been requested to monitor the level of operation of the deepwell handpumps and examine the reasons of non-functioning or mal-functioning due to insufficient deep digging, bad workmanship, poor quality equipment, improper maintenance etc. or any other reasons and take suitable action.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27-10-83).

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE AWAITED

Recommendation (Sr. No. 20, Para No. 3.76)

As regards the problem of Drinking Water Pollution caused by industrial waste, the Committee note that, although the Water Pollution Control Act was brought in force in 1974, so far only 337 industries out of a total of 1700 pollutionally relevant industries) have commissioned Industrial Waste Treatment Plants and another 368 are in the process of doing so. This is a highly unsatisfactory progress specially in view of the fact that adequate powers are available under the Water Pollution Control Act to compell the pollutionary relevant industries to put up industrial waste water treatment plants. It is a sad reflection on the performance of the Central Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution. The Committee would like the Board to be more energetic in securing compliance with the provisions of the Act. The Committee also desire that a survey be made of all the pollutionary relevant industries which are reported to have put up industrial waste water treatment plants with a view to find out whether these plants are actually in operation. The Committee would expect a report to be furnished to them on the findings of the Survey in six months time.

Reply of Government

The recommendation was forwarded to the Deptt. of Environment for necessary action. It has also been reported that the Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution have started the work of Water Polluting industries inventory and have so far received data from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Chandigarh, Goa and Pondicherry. The data is being subjected to verification and processing by the Board. The Board is awaiting data from the remaining States.

(Ministry of Works and Housing O.M. No. H-11013/1/83-PHE
dated 27-10-83)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 24, Para No. 3.80)

In fact having regard to the nexus between health and safe drinking water supply the Committee feel that the responsibility for providing Drinking water and sanitation facilities should be that of the Departments dealing with Public Health in the states and Union Territories and these should be coordinated and maintained by the Ministry of Health at the centre. The Committee hope that action will be initiated in this regard in consultation with the States.

Reply of Government

This recommendation, along with recommendation No. 36 is under consideration.

(Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 36, Para No. 7.50)

Having carefully considered the views of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Works & Housing on the subject of administrative arrangements in respect of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, the Committee have come to the conclusions as referred to earlier in this Report, that it could be more appropriate if the subject of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation is transferred from the Ministry of Works and Housing to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which was handling it till 1974.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is under consideration.

[Ministry of Works & Housing O.M.No. H-11013/1/83-PHE dated 27.10.83].

NEW DELHI ;

December 9, 1983

Agrahayana 18, 1905 (S)

Bansi Lal

BANSI LAL,

Chairman,

Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 48TH REPORT OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (7TH LOK SABHA)

I.	Total number of Recommendations.	...	...	36
II.	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Nos. 1 to 5, 7 to 13, 15 to 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, to 28, 30 to 35). Total			30
	Percentage to total	...	...	83.3%
III.	Recommendations/Observations which the committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's reply	...	...	NIL
IV.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee :—			
	(Sl. Nos. 6, 14, and 29) Total			3
	Percentage to total	...	...	8.3%
V.	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are awaited :—			
	(Sl. Nos. 20, 24 and 36) Total			3
	Percentage to total	...	...	8.3%