

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) WHO have drawn attention to the problems arising out of presence of Arsenic in Drinking Water Supplies in India and Bangladesh;

(b) The names of the Districts where Ground Water Quality is not meeting the Safe Limit of the Chemicals set by the WHO are (i) Murshidabad; (ii) Malda; (iii) Nadia; (iv) North 24 parganas; (v) South 24 Parganas; (vi) Howrah; (vii) Hugli; and (viii) Burdhan.

(c) The State Government in collaboration with and financial support from Government of India has sanctioned a First Phase Action Plan at a cost of Rs. 858.33 lakhs whereunder replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources and big dia tubewells have already been completed, and four Water Supply Schemes have been fully commissioned. For Malda District, a surface water based piped water Supply-Scheme has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs.8848 lakhs. Other works undertaken include:

- (i) Installation of Arsenic removal plants.
- (ii) Construction of sanitary protected ring wells.
- (iii) Trial boring cum handpump fitted production wells.
- (iv) Replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources.

Approval for a Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of South 24 Parganas District at an estimated cost of Rs. 232.84 crore has been accorded.

The All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health in Calcutta, of the Ministry of health & Family welfare has undertaken Epidemiological Study in Arsenic affected areas under the sponsorship of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. This Institute carried out Ministry of Rural Development sponsored R&D Study for development of field model for Arsenic removal. The Institute also carried out Trainers Workshop, and field training for water quality analysis in respect of Arsenic contamination during 1997.

Storage Problem In FCI Godowns

897. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA :
SHRI K.P. NAIDU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported wheat has created problems for storage and its distribution for F.C.I.:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for import when we have buffer stock of grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to untimely rains during the sowing season, the Ministry of Agriculture had initially estimated that production of wheat during the current Rabi Season was likely to be 64.51 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes last year. Government, therefore, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99 to augment its availability in the country for keeping prices under control.

[Translation]

Demand For Darjeeling State

898. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not including the demand of Darjeeling for creation of a separate State under the announcement of reconstituting of new States;

(b) whether a prominent leader of Darjeeling has raised the Darjeeling issue in the international court, at Heg;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Darjeeling would be given the status of a new State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) The Government is, for the present, committed to giving full Statehood to Delhi and also creating Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhatisgarh as new States.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no proposal to grant Statehood to Darjeeling at present.

Industrial Training Institute

899. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether machines worth crore of rupees provided to the Industrial Training Institute, Uttar Pradesh under the World Bank project are lying unused;