

### Handing Over of Water Supply Operation to Gram Panchayats

1909. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to handover the work of operation and maintenance of water supply sources of Gram Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be handed over;

(c) whether Panchayats are capable to undertake the said works; and

(d) if not, the measures taken by the Government to provide resources to Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) and (b) Rural Water Supply is a State subject, State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). To sustain the Rural Water Supply system created, the State Governments have been requested to hand over the responsibility for operation and maintenance of rural water supply schemes to the Panchayats. The State Governments have also been requested to establish water user committees at the Panchayat level to manage the system. However, no specific timeframe for this has been fixed.

(c) and (d) The Panchayats require financial and technical resources to carry out the operation and maintenance responsibilities of rural water supply schemes. The State Governments have been requested to take up with the respective State Finance Commissions the issue of providing sufficient financial resources to the Panchayats to enable them to ensure proper operation and maintenance of the rural water supply schemes. Besides beneficiary contribution will also be raised. Central assistance is also provided to the State Governments under the human resource development programme to impart the necessary skills at the grass root level to carry out operation and maintenance responsibilities.

### Calcutta Metro Railway

1910. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Calcutta Metro Railway has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The losses in running of Calcutta Metro Railway, are mainly on account of increase in the fixed and the variable components of the cost of Metro operations, less materialisation of traffic due to availability of parallel services by other modes of transport, higher electrical energy cost, and low fare structure. The details of total revenue earnings and net working expenses of Calcutta Metro during the last three years are as under :

Year	Earnings	Net working expenses
	(Figures in crore of Rupees)	
1995-96	11.70	22.25
1996-97	17.42	33.04
1997-98	19.64	48.24

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

### Rural Development Schemes in Maharashtra

1911. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a request for additional funds for ongoing rural development schemes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the time by which the funds will be made available; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.