

mining is done about 2 kms below the ground level. And the number of fatal accidents has been increasing from 158 in 1982 to 180 in 1986. The number of serious accidents also has been increasing automatically. But the Minister is saying that there is no proposal to appoint a fresh committee to go into these things. In the Kolar gold mines everyday there is an accident. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is going to introduce some modern technology in order to prevent accidents particularly in Kolar gold fields.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is true that the number of fatal accidents has been increasing from 158 in 1982 to 180 in 1986. But we must also realise that the activity in the mining areas is also on the increase and the number of workers coming into the mining areas is also on the increase. For example, in 1982 the total production of coal was 134 million tonnes. This has gone upto 163 million tonnes in 1986. But I do not mean to say that since the activity is increasing, the accident should also increase. We must prevent accidents. We are trying to take every possible step in that direction. Actually the measures which are to be taken for prevention of accidents are under the administrative control of the Department of Mines and the Department of Coal. We are in touch with them. And all necessary steps will be taken to prevent accidents in future.

DR. V. VENKATESH: The Minister has just now said that because of the increase in production, there is an increase in the number of accidents. But what about Kolar gold mines? There, the production is less and the accidents are more. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government will apply a new approach to prevent accidents particularly in the Kolar gold mines?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I do not have figures for the Kolar gold mines at the moment. But I must point out that accident do not happen in India only. All over the world, accidents do take place. If we look at the comparative figures of what has happened elsewhere in the world, well, our figures are quite comparative. India's rate of fatal acci-

dents per thousand persons is 0.32 whereas in Japan it is 3.57. Like that the figure of accidents in other countries is higher than ours though they are going in for more modern technology than we are. In spite of applying the modern technologies in countries like Japan, West Germany and USA the rate of fatal accidents is much higher than the rate in our country.

Higher Priority to Drinking Water Schemes

***191. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN*:
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union and State Governments have included Irrigation and Power in the core sector and top priority is given to these schemes while making allocations;

(b) whether Union Government propose to solve the urgent problem of drinking water by giving still higher priority to this problem and making more provision for it and by persuading the States for doing likewise; and

(c) if so, when and how?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The Irrigation and Power Sectors have been given high priority in the Plans as these sectors play an important role in the development of agriculture, industry and other sectors of the economy. Irrigation sector accounts for 8.9% of the total Seventh Plan outlay. The approved outlay for power sector is 19% of the total Seventh Plan Outlay.

(b) Yes, Sir. Central Government is making more provision for drinking water scheme (ARWSP) and also persuading the States for doing likewise.

(c) The following table indicates the outlays provided under Drinking Water Supply Sector during the Sixth Plan, Seventh Plan and Annual Plans, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88:

(Rs. in crores)

	6th Plan	7th Plan	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
State/UT Plan	3307.80	5285.64	838.30	1000.10	1168.56
(Of which MNP)	1407.11	2253.25	356.71	417.38	490.85
Central Plan	604.22*	1236.83	300.00	329.70	392.34
(Of which ARWSP)	725.00**	1201.22	298.88	316.75	369.75

*Includes Rs. 12 crores for prevention and control of water and air pollution which has now been transferred to Science and Technology Sector.

**Includes an outlay of Rs. 125 crores for Incentive Bonus Scheme which was approved subsequent to Sixth Plan finalisation.

Higher outlays have been provided for this sector during the Seventh Plan both under State/UT as well as the Central Plan (which is even more than two times the outlay provided in the Sixth Plan). The outlays in the State/UT Plan and the Central Plan have been gradually stepped up during the first three years of the Seventh Plan period. The outlays in the remaining two years in the Seventh Plan are likely to be still higher.

The State/UT Governments are persuaded to provide more funds for this sector. Allocation of Central assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is subject to the condition of a matching contribution being made in the State sector MNP. In the Conference of State Ministers, Secretaries and Chief Engineers of the Water Supply and Sanitation held on 11th and 12th February, 1987 a consensus was reached that Drinking Water Supply Programme in the Rural Areas should be kept in the core sector of the Plan and should be given the highest priority among all other Plan Schemes. Allocation of further financial resources was considered essential to

achieve Seventh Plan objective of supply of safe drinking water to the rural population by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has included Irrigation and Power in the core sector and has given top priority to these schemes in the matter of making allocations. 8.9 per cent of the plan outlay is being spent on Irrigation, 19 per cent is being spent on electricity and 3.2 per cent is being spent on drinking water. The Chief Ministers, the Ministers and all others have emphasised the need for giving top priority to the drinking water. The Central Government has made a provision of only Rs. 1200 crores for drinking water. I want to know whether the problem of drinking water will be solved by making more allocation for it during Seventh Five Year Plan and including it in the core sector?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: the Question Hour is over.