**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1293**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/11/2016**

**Water borne diseases**

1293. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is estimated that around 37.7 million Indians are affected by water borne diseases annually, 1.5 million children are estimated to die of diarrhoea alone, 73 million working days are lost due to water borne diseases each year and the resulting economic burden is estimated at $ 600 million a year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE**

**IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

1. As per the background paper titled “Drinking water quality in India – Issues and Approaches” published by WaterAid, it is estimated that around 37.7 million Indians are affected by water borne diseases annually, 1.5 million children are estimated to die of diarrhoea alone, 73 million working days are lost due to water borne diseases each year and the resulting economic burden is estimated at $ 600 million a year.
2. Water borne diseases like diarrhea may result due to insanitary and unhygienic conditions and consumption of bacteriologically contaminated water. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is promoting construction of individual household toilets and proper solid and liquid waste management through the Swachch Bharat Mission- Grameen programme.

Rural water supply is a State subject. The Ministry is assisting the States technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, States have been advised to adopt proper disinfection practices so that bacteria free drinking water is made available to the rural population.

\*\*\*\*\*\*