

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4336

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2001

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL AREAS

E. PONNUSWAMY

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a scheme for people's participation in providing drinking water in villages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being contemplated by the Government as the alternate ones for using the funds provided and lying with collectors?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SMT. RITA VERMA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Reforms have been introduced on pilot basis in Rural Water Supply sector to institutionalise people's participation in Rural Water Supply activities with effect from April 1999. This aims to ensure long term sustainability of the rural water supply systems and sources. 63 districts spread in 26 States of the country have been identified by the State Governments for implementation of sector reform projects. Out of this, 61 projects have been approved and sanctioned. The concept envisages to demystify Rural Water Supply technology to the rural population, enhance their awareness and equip them to plan, sanction, partially fund capital works, implement, manage, operate and maintain Rural Water Supply schemes of their own choice themselves.

(c): Government funds for implementation of sector reform projects are released directly to separate accounts opened in the name of Zilla Parishad (ZP) or District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) only. Contributions received from the community are to be placed in the account of Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) for implementation of the schemes. Community contribution, if any, received and lying with Collectors, is required to be transferred to the account of VWSC.