

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:378  
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000  
DRINKING WATER MISSION  
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Drinking Water Mission is not properly responding to the urgent requirements of the different parts of the country;
- (b) whether a little progress has been made by the Drinking Water Mission;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the Drinking Water Mission?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A.RAJA)

(a) to (c): As rural drinking water supply is a State subject, the State Governments have been implementing Rural Water Supply Programmes under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission supplements the efforts of the State Governments mainly by providing Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) with the prime objective of ensuring coverage of all rural habitations with access to safe drinking water supply. Powers to plan, sanction and implement individual Rural Water Supply Schemes have been delegated to the State Governments. In order to meet the urgent requirements of drinking water on account of drought, cyclone, flood etc. in various parts of the country, assistance is provided to the States every year from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for undertaking immediate relief measures. Releases from this fund are made by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The progress made with the efforts of the Mission could be assessed from the fact that as per the latest information furnished by the State Governments, as on 1-4-2000, out of 14,22,664 rural habitations in the country, 11,72,728 habitations have been fully covered and 2,22,493 are partially covered with drinking water facilities as per the norms of the programme.

(d): In order to give focussed attention to achieve the objective of the National Agenda for Governance of the Government to provide safe drinking water to all villages in five years, a new Department of Drinking Water Supply has been created with the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission functioning in the Department.