

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2690

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006

SAFE DRINKING WATER

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**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the contamination of the drinking water is increasing and State Governments are unable to provide the same due to lack latest technologies ;
- (b) If so, whether the Union Government has proposed to give financial assistance to the States to update the old age water purification technology with the best global practices ;
- (c) If so, the details thereof ;
- (d) Whether the Union Government has sought technological/financial help from external agencies/sources; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof as on date ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a) The Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply (DDWS) have informed that the number of water quality affected habitations as reported by the State Governments compiled as on 1.4.2005 is 2,16,968 and on 1.4.2006 is 1,95,813. As per DDWS, lack of latest technologies is not the reason for inability of State Governments for providing safe drinking water.
- (b) & (c) The Ministry of Rural Development , Department of Drinking Water Supply have reported that the technical and financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is being provided to States as Rural Water Supply is a State subject. Choice of technology for tackling water quality problems is the prerogative of the State Government.
- (d)&(e) The Ministry of Rural Development , Department of Drinking Water Supply have also reported that the concept papers in respect of external funding for providing safe drinking water as received from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka have been forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs.