

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:670

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DRINKING WATER SUPPLY TO RURAL AREAS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) indicating the success achieved, so far under it in each State since its inception;
- (b) the number of rural habitations which have been covered, partially covered and not covered with drinking water supply facilities under various programmes during each of the last three years and current year in each district of the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;
- (c) the funds provided and utilized under ARWSP during the said period, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide drinking water to all the rural habitations without any further delay?

Answer

MINISTER OF STAT IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) Water is a State subject. The primary responsibility to provide drinking water rests with the States. The objective of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is to give financial assistance to States for coverage of rural habitations with safe drinking water supply. States Governments are free to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply schemes for coverage of rural habitations. The funds are distributed every year on the basis of inter-State allocation criterion, which takes into account numerous factors such as number of uncovered habitations, rural population, geographical locations etc.

After the introduction of ARWSP, the coverage position is as follows:

YEARS COVERAGE

1972-73 to 1991-92 7,45,759 villages
Eighth Plan (1992-93 to 1996-97) 3,39,705 villages / habitations
Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2001-2002) 4,17,951 habitations
Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) 3,12,164 habitations#

Till January 2007 end.

However, coverage is a dynamic concept. A number of habitations, once Fully Covered may slip back to NC/PC due to a number of factors like:

\$ Sources going dry or lowering of the ground water table.

\$ Sources becoming quality affected.

\$ Systems outliving their lives.

\$ Systems working below rated capacity due to poor operation and maintenance.

\$ Increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability.

\$ Emergence of new habitations.

To ascertain the status of drinking water supply in rural habitations, it was decided to conduct fresh survey. The coverage status as per 2003 Survey is as given below:

Category Number of Habitations
(As per ARWSP norms)
2003 Survey#

Fully Covered (FC) 869997

Not Covered (NC) 247943

Partially Covered (PC) 389409

Total 1507349

Except Manipur, A&N Islands and Delhi.

(b) & (c) The State wise number of rural habitations which have been covered with drinking water supply facilities and the funds provided and utilized under ARWSP during each of the last three years and current year are annexed at Annexure I and II respectively. Since the States plan, sanction and implement projects at their level the district-wise details are not maintained at Central level.

(d) Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years, from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. Under Bharat Nirman, it is proposed to cover all the uncovered habitations of CAP 99 with safe sources of drinking water as well as to cover slipped back and quality affected habitations by 2008-09.