

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4611

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008

STUDY ON DRINKING WATER

Jain Shri Pusp;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati;Yadav Shri Ram Kripal

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up high level committee to study the drinking water problems of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to provide safe and adequate quantity of drinking water to every citizen of the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI AJAY MAKEN )

(a)to(d): As per Constitution of India, the subject of water supply falls in the state list. The Government of India extends support under its various programmes/ schemes to assist the State/Local Governments in the discharge of their functions related to drinking water supply.

The Ministry of Urban Development has not established any high level committee to study the drinking water problems of the country. However, Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in 63 select cities. Water supply is one of the major components under JNNURM. Since the launch of the Mission, 99 water projects costing Rs.11100.47 crore have been sanctioned under Urban Infrastructure & Governance component of JNNURM so far. Under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) component, 205 water supply projects costing Rs.3393.21 crores have been sanctioned.

As per information received from Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, a technical Expert Group (TEG) has been set up to examine various emerging issues in drinking water and sanitation sector in respect of rural areas and to suggest measures to tackle the new challenges vide Department of Drinking Water Supply's order dated 16.8.2007. Terms of Reference (TOR) of Technical Expert Group (TEG) are given in Annexure-I. The Department has also intimated that funds have been provided in the budgets of the States of drinking water supply right from the commencement of the first Five Year Plan. A national water supply and sanitation programme was introduced in the social welfare sector in the year 1954. The Government of India provided assistance to the States to establish special investigation divisions in the Fourth Five Year Plan to carry out identification of the problem villages. Taking into account the magnitude of the problem and accelerated the pace of coverage of problem villages, the Central Government introduced the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) in 1972-73 to assist the States and the Union Territories with 100% grants-in-aid to implement the schemes in such villages. This programme continued till 1973-74. But with the introduction of the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) during the fifth Five Year Plan (from 1974-75), it was withdrawn. The programme was however, re-introduced in 1977-78 when the progress of supply of safe drinking water to the identified problem villages under the Minimum Needs Programme was not found to be satisfactory. The entire programme was given a Mission Approach when the Technology Mission on Drinking Water and Related Water Management also called the National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) was introduced as one of the five Social Missions in 1986. NDWM was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in 1991. Drinking Water Supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman under which all uncovered, slipped-back habitations are to be covered and all quality-affected habitations are proposed to be addressed for quality problems within four years period that is from 2005-06 to 2008-09. A Statement showing the achievements as reported by the States/UTs upto February, 2008 under Bharat Nirman is enclosed as Annexure-II. It is expected that the remaining habitations will be covered/ addressed by March, 2009.