

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1133  
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008  
CONFERENCE ON DRINKING WATER  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether any conference of Union and State Ministers was held recently to discuss the drinking water conditions in rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the recommendations made therein; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) A two-day conference of Ministers in-Charge of rural drinking water supply and rural sanitation in the States and the Union Territories was held on July 4-5, 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was Sustainability in Rural Drinking Water Supply Systems and Sanitation for All. During the inauguration the Prime Minister released theme documents on sustainability in the rural drinking water supply projects and sanitation.

(b): The important issues which were stressed during the conference were as follows:

# State Governments are to ensure sustainability in drinking water sources both surface and ground water to prevent slippage in terms of quality and quantity of drinking water supply;

# Need for effective convergence with other government programmes like NREGA, Water & Soil Conservation, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);

# Dovetailing of funds with the grants provided under the XII Finance Commission;

# Promotion of cost-effective technologies and revival of traditional water bodies and drinking water sources;

# Regular updation of progress on online monitoring system , and

# Improved data management for planning and implementation of projects.

(c) The State Governments are in various stages of operationalisation of the recommendations of the annual State Minister's conference and follow up action taken by the Department in this regard.