

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:302

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2008

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Renge Patil Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set any goal to ensure the supply of safe drinking water to every habitation by 2010 in the country;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to achieve this goal;
- (c) whether any special action plan has been prepared for areas where the water is highly toxic; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR.RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 302 to be answered on 19.12.2008

(a) to (d): Rural water supply is a State subject and State Governments/ its agencies are primarily responsible for water supply in rural areas. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under ARWSP, power to plan, approve, implement, operate and maintain the water supply schemes rests with the States. To ensure availability of potable drinking water in all rural habitations, under Bharat Nirman launched in 2005-06 and to be implemented in four years period, rural drinking water has been included as one of the components. Under Bharat Nirman-rural drinking component, it was envisaged to cover 55,067 uncovered habitations and about 3.32 lakh slipped-back habitations, and also address water quality problems in about 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations. As reported by the States/ UTs, so far, 43,218 uncovered and 3.05 lakh slipped-back habitations have been covered and 1.16 lakh quality-affected habitations have been addressed. Thus, out of total 6.04 lakh habitations to be covered/ addressed during Bharat Nirman period, so far about 4.64 lakh habitations have been covered/ addressed. As indicated by the States, the remaining about 1.40 lakh habitations are planned to be covered/addressed by March, 2009.

To address water quality problems in focused manner, in 2006-07, Revised Sub-mission on Water Quality was introduced under which upto 20% ARWSP fund can be utilized. Accordingly, in 2006-07, Rs. 735.67 crore and in 2007-08, Rs. 1,526.10 crore has been made available to States. In 2008-09, States have been authorized to utilize upto 20% ARWSP funds allocated to them to address water quality problems. Under Revised Sub-mission Water Quality, States have been asked to accord priority to Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations, followed by Iron, salinity, Nitrate and other contaminants. At present, most of the remaining habitations are quality-affected habitations suffering from excess Iron, salinity, Nitrate or combination of these contaminants. Further, in 2005-06, National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme has been introduced under which, 5 persons in each Gram Panchayat are to be trained for testing their drinking water sources using simple field test kits provided under the programme. Under this programme, so far about Rs. 240 crore has been provided to the States/UTs.

To achieve the Bharat Nirman target within the stipulated timeframe, the Government of India has increased the funding substantially for rural drinking water. Against Rs. 2,930.79 crore provided in 2004-05, during Bharat Nirman period, Rs. 4,098.03 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 4,560.00 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 6,441.63 crore in 2007-08 have been utilized. In 2008-09, allocation has been further enhanced to Rs. 7,300 crore out of which, so far Rs. 5,034 crore (69%) have been utilized. In addition, Rs. 100 crore has been provided during current year for installing standalone water purification systems in rural schools for clean drinking water. In all, during Bharat Nirman period so far, Rs. 22,400 crore has been made available by the Government of India for rural water supply.