

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1580
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010
RIGHT TO WATER
Balram Shri P.;Ponnam Shri Prabhakar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to declare Right to Water as a basic/fundamental right;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Government would provide potable water across the country within a time-frame work?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA)

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Water is a State subject. Under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States to supplement their efforts to provide potable drinking water to rural habitations. Under this programme the powers to plan, approve and implement water supply schemes are vested with the States.

Assured availability of potable drinking water throughout the year in a habitation may vary from time to time as it depends on a number of factors viz. poor or inadequate rainfall, change in ground water table due to excess withdrawal and/or poor recharge, existing water supply systems having completed their lifespan and becoming defunct or giving reduced discharge, increase in the population of the habitation, poor operation & maintenance, salinity ingress in coastal areas, release of chemical contaminants in the ground water, etc. Thus, habitations/villages with adequate availability of potable water may slip back to inadequate availability and/or report quality problems. However, under Bharat Nirman-II, all remaining un-covered and quality-affected habitations are targeted for coverage.