

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1636

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

SHORTAGE OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest position regarding the rural habitations/villages facing shortage of safe drinking water in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the details of rural habitations/ villages which are fully covered, partially covered, uncovered, quality affected and those which have slipped back, separately;
- (c) the funds allocated, released, utilized and achievements made in this regard during each of the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has set any targets and formulated any strategy to cater to the increasing demand of safe drinking water in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water in the affected areas of the country within a stipulated time-frame?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) The habitations are classified as covered if adequate drinking water is available to all habitants as per the norm of water supply fixed by the respective State, but is not less than 40 liters per capita per day. The status of rural habitations in terms of coverage of population with adequate safe drinking water supply and quality affected habitations, state-wise, is at Annexure I.

(c) The State-wise fund allocation, release and expenditure reported during last three years and the current year is at Annexure II and achievement during the same period at Annexure III.

(d)&(e) The strategy and focus of the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development and its current programme in the field is towards ensuring sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that recurring shortages are avoided. The action plan of the Department, as laid down in the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines, and its current programme in the field for the Eleventh Plan period envisages:

Coverage of the remaining uncovered, slipped back and quality affected habitations,

Sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that the slippage do not occur,

Conjunctive use of ground water, surface water and rain water

Incentives to States to handover management of rural drinking water schemes to Panchayats by suitably empowering them and building up their capacities.

The steps taken to expedite the availability of drinking water in rural areas, inter-alia,are:

Increased budgetary support during the Bharat Nirman period. The central allocation increased from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 5200 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 6500 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 7300 crore in 2008-09. This was further increased to Rs. 8000 crore in 2009-10.

Encouraging sustainability of drinking water sources by providing enhanced Central assistance.

Encouraging convergence with existing government programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi-NREGS and other Soil and Water Conservation Programmes to augment availability of water.

For economically weaker states of the North-East and Jammu & Kashmir, the fund sharing pattern has been liberalized from the previous 50:50 (Centre: State) to 90:10 (Centre: State) to ensure that they have sufficient funds to implement rural drinking water schemes.

