

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4948
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to ensure proper devolution of authority to local Governments in operating and maintaining water supply facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to involve civil society in implementing effective Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns for spreading awareness on maintenance of quality drinking water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Rural water supply is a State subject and with the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India, it has been placed in the XIth Schedule of the Constitution as a subject that may be devolved to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Government of India supplements the efforts of the States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) by providing financial and technical assistance. Powers to plan, approve and implement the schemes rest with the States. Under NRDWP, Government of India encourages the States to hand over management of water supply schemes to PRIs by setting apart 10% of the annual NRDWP funds to be given as incentive to such States that have handed over the management of water supply schemes to PRIs. The basic thrust of the NRDWP is to enable the community to take over and shoulder the full responsibility of drinking water supply in their own villages.

(c)&(d): Under NRDWP, 5% of the allocation to States is earmarked for support activities which inter alia includes IEC campaign in the respective States. The role of civil society organizations has been envisaged in community mobilization, information dissemination etc. as per para 12.11 of the NRDWP Guidelines. States can also take up State and region specific IEC activities involving inter alia, Non-Governmental Organisations, self help groups, women's groups for water quality monitoring and surveillance. Powers to approve all activities relating to rural water supply and their implementation are with the States.