

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2936
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2009
ASSISTANCE FOR WATER CONSERVATION
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is providing technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for executing projects relating to water conservation and rain water harvesting in rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued or proposed to issue any guidelines under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): Yes Sir. Government of India is providing technical and financial assistance to the States for executing projects relating to water conservation and roof-top rain water harvesting. Financial assistance is provided for rural drinking water supply through the erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), restructured from 01.04.2009 and renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under this scheme, the States can use upto 20% of the funds allocated for measures promoting sustainability, including water conservation and roof-top rain water harvesting. This component is fully funded by the Center. Besides this scheme, water conservation measures can be converged with works under other programmes of the Center, such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Hariyali Scheme, National Afforestation Programme, etc.

The Guidelines of NRDWP includes guidelines for sustainability measures also. The experts in this field are often consulted and their inputs are disseminated, inter-alia, through Technical Notes, booklets, workshops and seminars, etc. The last such workshop was held with all States in Hyderabad on June 24-26, 2009.