

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1835

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2009

DRINKING WATER SCHEMES

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has fixed any target to provide drinking water facilities to all the habitations in rural areas of the country by the year 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed/proposed to review the progress made by the States under drinking water Schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to hand over the management of drinking water projects to Panchayats in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a)to(d): Under Bharat Nirman, of which rural drinking water is one of the components and conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years from 2005–06 to 2008–09 for building rural infrastructure, Government of India had set a target of coverage of 55,067 uncovered habitations and 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and addressing 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations. The progress made by each State is reviewed at regular intervals, through written reports, meetings and field visits. The targets till 2011 have been fixed on the result of such reviews and are as follows:

(i) Against 55,067 un-covered habitations to be covered during the Bharat Nirman period, 54,433 habitations have been covered by 29 June, 2009. The remaining habitations will be covered by 2011.

(ii) The target of 3,31,604 slipped-back habitations has been exceeded. The habitations slip back due to many reasons such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, systems outliving their lives, increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability, etc. The figures for slipped back habitations are therefore dynamic. The entire strategy and focus of the Department and its current programme in the field is towards sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that the phenomenon of recurring slippage does not occur.

(iii) Of the 2, 16,968 quality affected habitations, in case of 46,344 habitations potable water is being supplied through completed projects. The remaining habitations targeted under Bharat Nirman and subsequent new habitations are being tackled through projects either ongoing or approved and to be started shortly. An effort will be made to complete these projects by 2011.

(e)&(f): Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through the erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), restructured from 01.04.2009 and renamed as National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). The aim of the NRDWP is to provide for drinking water security in rural areas, with a comprehensive approach of the State towards decentralized planning. It recognizes that the fundamental basis on which drinking water security can be ensured is the decentralized approach through the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). NRDWP encourages States to hand over drinking water schemes to PRIs by providing a 10 percent weightage during annual fund allocation to those states which have transferred the assets created to them. Financial assistance from the Central Government beyond 2011 will be provided primarily to the Panchayati Raj Institutions.