

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1199
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010
SHORTAGE OF WATER
Anuragi Shri Ghansyam

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the problem of severe scarcity of drinking water is constantly increasing in various parts of the country;
- (b) whether the problem of drinking water in Bundelkhand region has assumed dangerous proportions and has led to the death of several people as well as animals and birds;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any effective measures to resolve the said problem;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b): No Sir. The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development has not received any such reports.
- (c)&(d): Nevertheless, Bharat Nirman - rural drinking water is under implementation since 2005-06 to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations. Under Bharat Nirman, all un-covered, slipped-back and quality-affected habitations are to be covered with provision of safe drinking water. So far, under Bharat Nirman, more than 54,963 uncovered, 4,87,713 slipped back and quality affected habitations have been provided safe and adequate drinking water since 2005-06. To consolidate these achievements, the rural water supply programme has been revamped in 2009-10 and National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has been launched. Under NRDWP, State Governments have been requested to prepare Annual Action Plan to cover the remaining un-covered and quality-affected habitations on priority and also mark the targeted habitations in the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). Further, while implementing the programme, habitations wherein the entire population is not getting adequate quantity of safe drinking water as well as SC, ST, and minority dominated habitations are to be given priority. Under the revised guidelines, 20% of the State's allocation under NRDWP is to be exclusively earmarked for taking up work for sustainability of water supply sources and systems in order to ensure that habitations once covered do not slip back. To enhance the capacity of different stakeholders in the rural drinking water sector, funding for Support activities has been increased to 5% of the NRDWP allocation. Since the launch of Bharat Nirman, the allocation of funds for rural drinking water have been increased substantially from Rs.2,585 crore in the year 2004-05 i.e. year preceding the launch of Bharat Nirman to Rs. 8,000 crore in 2009-10, which has been further increased to Rs.9,000 crore in 2010-11 resulting in a substantial increase in the assistance to States,
- (e): Does not arise.