

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:99

ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010

DRINKING WATER IN RURAL AREAS

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether safe drinking water is still inaccessible in various rural areas of the country including Gujarat and Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total number of villages in the country affected with excess of fluoride, nitrate, salinity, arsenic additives in ground water; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Stared Question No.99 admitted for reply on 15-11-2010

(a) to (d): As reported by the States and Union Territories, as on 01-04-2005, there were 55,067 uncovered habitations i.e. habitations yet to be covered with provision of adequate and safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country. Of these as on 01-04-2010, 376 uncovered habitations remain to be covered with adequate and safe drinking water supply in various rural areas of the country. The State/UT-wise number of uncovered habitations is at Annexure I.

There are altogether 1.44 lakh rural habitations in the country affected with excess of fluoride, nitrate, salinity, arsenic and iron in groundwater-based drinking water sources remaining to be covered with safe drinking water as on 1.4.2010. The contamination-wise distribution of quality-affected habitations is as below.

Fluoride	Salinity	Iron	Arsenic	Nitrate	Total
26131	28398	79955	6548	3032	144064

The State/UT-wise distribution of water-quality-affected habitations is at Annexure II.

Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under the NRDWP, State Governments can utilize upto 65% of the funds allocated to them for coverage of rural habitations with safe and adequate drinking water supply and tackling water quality problems. The details of funds available under NRDWP with the States/ UTs for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country is at Annexure III.