

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:973  
ANSWERED ON:15.11.2010  
CONTAMINATED WATER IN RURAL AREAS  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to explore alternatives for geogenic/non-point sources of contamination either through piped surface water supplies or improved onsite treatment technology in rural areas;
- (b) if so, details thereof; and
- (c) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): 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 habitations with safe drinking water and tackling water quality problems. Piped water supply from alternate safe surface water bodies is one of the technologies of providing safe drinking water especially in water quality affected habitations wherein contamination is due to geogenic reasons / non-point sources. As per the guidelines of NRDWP, State Governments are empowered to select, plan, sanction, design and implement rural water supply schemes including sources and technologies thereof.