

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4290  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2010  
NATIONAL DRINKING WATER POLICY  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any National Drinking Water Policy;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is committed to enact any legislation with a view to include Right to Safe Drinking Water under fundamental rights to people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide drinking water to be made available to all the people in the country within a fixed time limit?

**Answer**

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

(a): The policy of the Government of India in the rural drinking water supply sector is laid down in the National Water Policy and the Framework for Implementation of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

(b)to(d): Since rural water supply is a State Subject, the State Governments are empowered to enact legislation on this subject. Hence, there is no proposal by the Government of India to enact any legislation on the subject.

(e): To ensure availability of potable drinking water in all rural habitations within a timeframe, rural drinking water has been included as one of the components under Bharat Nirman. At the commencement of Bharat Nirman as on 1.4.2005, 55067 uncovered habitations, 3,31,604 slipped back habitations and 2,16,968 quality affected habitations existed in the country. At the end of Bharat Nirman phase - I i.e. on 31.3.2009, there were 627 uncovered and 1,79,999 quality affected habitations yet to be covered with provision of safe drinking water. These habitations are proposed to be covered during Bharat Nirman Phase - II. To ensure that these remaining habitations are covered during the Bharat Nirman Phase - II, State Governments have been requested to prepare Annual Action Plans to cover the uncovered and quality affected habitations on priority and also mark the targeted habitations in the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). To achieve the targets laid down since the launch of Bharat Nirman, the allocation of funds for rural drinking water has been increased substantially from Rs.2,585crore in the year 2004-05 i.e. year preceding the launch of Bharat Nirman to Rs.9,000 crore in 2010-11.