

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1274  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011  
SANITATION FACILITIES  
Chaudhary Shri Jayant

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

- (a) whether the WHO/UNICEF report on `Progress on sanitation and drinking water 2010 update` points out that the use of sanitation facilities in terms of percentage of population was 31 per cent in rural areas of the country;
- (b) whether this conflicts with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation's figure of 67 per cent;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government intends to increase coverage to the remaining 33 per cent, assuming the Department's figures as correct alongwith details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes sir.

(b)&(c): According to the information presented in the WHO/UNICEF report on `Progress on sanitation and drinking water 2010 update` the use of sanitation facilities as a percentage of population was 31% in rural areas of the country. The information presented in the report includes data from household surveys and censuses completed during the period 2007-2008 only. Further, as mentioned in the report itself, the data in the report do not reflect the efforts of the international year of sanitation 2008 and beyond which mobilised renewed support to stop the practice of open defecation and to promote the use of toilets. Moreover WHO/UNICEF report monitored usage while at present TSC figures speak of availability of physical facility of access to toilet with rural households. The sanitation coverage in rural areas was 21.9% as per census 2001. With the effective implementation of Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), the rural sanitation coverage has since increased to approximately 69% as of January 2011, as per the progress reported by all the States through online monitoring system maintained by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(d): TSC is a demand driven, project based programme taking district as a unit. The district projects include all the rural households that do not have access to toilet. The main objective TSC is to eradicate the practice of open defecation for ensuring clean environment in rural India.