

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:641

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009

SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of drinking water especially in rural area including backward/Tribal and naxal-affected districts in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem;
- (c) the funds sanctioned/released/utilized and spent for the purpose during the each of the last three years and current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch a special programme on drinking water supply in the most backward/Tribal and naxal affected districts in the country with provision of a special funds for the purpose; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The status of infrastructure provided for rural water supply in the backward districts and naxal affected district as on 1.4.2009 is at Annexure IA and IB, respectively. The habitations are classified as covered if adequate drinking water is available to all habitants as per the norm of water supply fixed by the respective State, but is not less than 40 litres per capita per day. The State-wise fund allocation, release and expenditure reported during last three years and the current year is at Annexure II. The habitations face drinking water shortage due to many reasons such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, systems outliving their lives, increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability, etc. The entire strategy and focus of the Department and its current programme in the field is towards ensuring sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that the phenomenon of recurring shortage does not occur. The steps taken to expedite the availability of drinking water in rural and tribal areas, inter-alia, are:

Increased budgetary support during the Bharat Nirman period. The central allocation increased from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 5200 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 6500 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 7300 crore in 2008-09.

Promoting conjunctive use of surface water, groundwater and rainwater.

Encouraging sustainability of drinking water sources by providing enhanced Central assistance.

Encouraging convergence with existing government programmes like NREGS and other Soil and Water Conservation Programmes to augment availability of water.

For economically weaker states of North-East and Jammu & Kashmir, the fund sharing pattern has been liberalized from the previous 50:50 (Centre: State) to 90:10 (Centre: State) to ensure that they have sufficient funds to implement drinking water schemes.

(d)&(e): As the centrally sponsored scheme of National Rural Drinking Water programme (NRDWP) covers all rural areas including backward/ tribal and naxal affected districts, there is no proposal at present to launch any other special programme.