

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3847

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011

FACILITY OF DRINKING WATER IN FORESTS

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Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals have to travel several kilometers to fetch drinking water in the forests;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure availability of drinking water to the tribal in their respective villages located in the forests itself?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a) The Ministry of Drinking water & Sanitation informed that they monitor the provision of drinking water supply by coverage of habitations on the basis of data entered by States on the on-line Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry. According to IMIS data as on 1.4.2011, out of 3,57,727 scheduled tribes concentrated habitations in the country, 2,34,312 habitations have been fully covered with provision of safe and adequate drinking water supply, 96,702 habitations are partially covered and 26,713 are quality affected habitations.

(b)&(c) : From 2011-12 onwards, this Ministry has made a dedicated provision of 10% out of the annual allocation under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for provision of safe drinking water in the habitations concentrated with tribal people. Further, in the criteria of allocation of funds under NRDWP 10% weightage has been given to Rural SC and ST population. Besides, the distance limit of 1.6 km in the plains and 100 metre in the elevation in hilly areas which was in vogue in the earlier Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) Guidelines has been dispensed with in the new NRDWP guidelines for provision of water supply facility like hand-pumps. Similarly, the population norm of 250 persons per hand-pump has also been dispensed with and States are free to fix their own norms. All habitations, including those with less than 100 persons, have to be covered with drinking water provision under NRDWP Guidelines. These changes in the Guidelines will enable greater coverage of drinking water to ST concentrated habitations, including those in the forests.