

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2378
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the mandate envisaged for the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP); and

(b) if so, the status of accomplishment so far, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), in order to decentralize powers and responsibilities and to give greater focus on water and sanitation issues, a Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) is to be set up in each Gram Panchayat/Village/Ward for implementation of water supply schemes to ensure the active participation of villagers. The Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) is to be set up as a standing committee in each Gram Panchayat for planning, monitoring, implementation and operation and maintenance of their Water Supply Schemes to ensure active participation of the villagers. The membership of a VWSC may consist of about 6 to 12 persons, comprising elected members of the Panchayat, atleast 50% women and with due representation to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and poorer sections of the village. This Committee should be an integral part of the Village Panchayat. The composition and functions of the VWSCs may be regulated by a set of by-laws under the State Panchayati Raj Act.

(b) As per information made available by State Governments, the status of accomplishments by the VWSC in them is as at Annexure.