

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5745
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
DRINKING WATER
Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

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

- (a) whether it is required to change the guidelines for greater coverage of Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations, including those in the forest areas under drinking water schemes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the success achieved so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): No Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 10% of the annual budget allocation is earmarked for expenditure on rural water supply schemes covering Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations.

Under NRDWP, in the criteria for allocation funds to the states, 10 % weightage is given to the rural Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population in the State.

The previous norm that only habitations with 100 persons or more be considered for coverage has been modified under NRDWP to ensure coverage of all habitations including those with less than 100 population. The previous norm of one handpump per 250 persons norm has also been modified under NRDWP by giving flexibility to the States to fix their own population and distance norm for installing handpumps.

Small habitations, including those in forest areas, can be included in the habitation database and taken up for coverage by the States. These changes under NRDWP ensure greater coverage of Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations.

(d): As reported by the States on the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry, as on 1.4.2012, out of the 16,64,186 rural habitations in the country, 3,57,727 are Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations. Of these 2,53,497 habitations are fully covered with safe drinking water supply, 82,110 are partially covered while 22120 habitations have one or more drinking water sources with chemical contamination problems. States prioritise coverage of the partially covered and quality affected habitations in their Annual Action Plans.