

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:482

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012

SAFE DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) the sources of drinking water in the rural areas in the country;
- (b) the accessibility and availability of drinking water in rural areas;
- (c) whether more than 20 percent of people in the country are getting water from unsafe sources; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to address this issue?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 482 admitted for reply on 10.5.2012

(a) to (d): The sources of drinking water in the country are piped water, handpumps, tubewells, wells and natural sources like springs, rivers, ponds etc.

As per the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) Report No. 535 (65th round) on Housing Condition and Amenities in India (July 2008-June 2009), 90.3% of rural households have access to drinking water from improved sources. Thus 9.7% of rural households have access to drinking water from unimproved sources.

Regarding the availability of drinking water in rural areas, as per the Census 2011 figures, 77.9% of the rural households of the country have drinking water available within or near their premises, i.e. within a distance of 500 metres.

Though water is a State subject, the Government of India is administering the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate and safe drinking water to all rural habitations. Under the NRDWP, State Governments are empowered to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crore has been made for NRDWP in 2012-13. Upto 62% of the NRDWP funds released to States can be utilized for providing adequate and safe drinking water to rural habitations. States are urged to prioritise the coverage of partially covered and quality affected habitations in their Annual Action Plans under the NRDWP.