

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1902
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012
GROUND WATER FOR DRINKING PURPOSE
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) whether 85 per cent of rural population uses groundwater for drinking purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact ground water is causing serious health problems due to its untreated use by people;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to provide treated groundwater to people for drinking purpose; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. It is estimated that about 85 percent of the rural population of the country use drinking water from ground based water sources.

(c) & (d): Yes Sir. In some parts of the country, the ground water is chemically contaminated due to various reasons which include natural geogenic leaching from rocks, release of untreated industrial effluents and leaching of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for village level water quality testing and for water quality testing laboratories so as to identify water sources which are contaminated. Funds are also provided under the NRDWP to supplement the efforts of the States for provision of safe drinking water to habitations having such quality affected sources.

(e) & (f): Under the NRDWP, quality affected habitations are covered by treating ground water as well as by providing drinking water from safe surface water sources.