

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4013  
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012  
REPORT ON RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
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**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Planning Commission Working Group on Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation for 2012-17; and

(b) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) : The important major recommendations of the Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation for the formulation of Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) are enclosed at Annexure.

(b) : The Twelfth Five Year Plan has not been finalized.

ANNEXURE

(Annexure to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4013 for Reply on 05.09.2012) WORKING GROUP ON RURAL DOMESTIC WATER AND SANITATION

The important major recommendations of the Working Group on Rural Domestic Water and Sanitation for the Twelfth Five Year Plan are as follows:

DRINKING WATER

Vision and Goal

# The vision for rural domestic water supply should be to cover all rural households with safe piped drinking water supply @ 70 litres per capita per day (lpcd). Considering the fact that the norm of 40 lpcd has been continuing from the last 4 decades and there is a large population that has to be provided with the higher service level, it is recommended that as an interim measure the goal be kept at 55 lpcd for the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP).

# By 2017, it is targeted that at least 55% of rural population in the country will have access to 55 lpcd within their household premises or at a horizontal or vertical distance of not more than 100 meters from their households without barriers of social or financial discrimination. Individual States can adopt higher quantity norms, such as 100 lpcd. By 2017, it is targeted that at least 35% of rural population have individual household connections.

# A major focus area of the 12th FYP is health. While investing on health, there should be greater investment on the preventive and public health aspect of health than on the curative aspect. In this context improvements in health are possible only with concomitant investments in sanitation and safe water supply to households.

Convergence of Drinking Water and Sanitation

# Convergence between drinking water supply and sanitation should be strengthened by concrete measures to reduce bacteriological contamination. Villages that have achieved open defecation free (ODF) status should be covered with piped water supply on priority and vice versa.

Integration of Housing and amenities

# Healthy living is possible only with integration of housing, safe drinking water supply and sanitation. As a step towards integration of these three programmes, Indira Awas Yojana including State housing programmes, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and providing these amenities in an integrated manner to rural people, it is recommended that a part of the Rural Water Supply outlay be set apart for funding integrated projects by States to provide these facilities on par with urban areas, like taps in toilets, bathrooms and kitchens, larger houses, sanitary toilets and solid and liquid waste management.

## Community participation

# Subsidiarity principle has to be followed and decisions should be made at the lowest level possible especially on issues like location, implementation, sustainability, O&M and management of water supply schemes, while retaining an umbrella role for the Gram Panchayats for effective implementation.

## Coverage of Schools and Anganwadis

# All government schools and anganwadis should be provided with water supply for drinking and for toilets as per relevant quantity norms by convergence of NRDWP for existing schools and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for new schools set up under SSA. For private schools, supply of water should be ensured by enforcement of the provisions of the Right to Education Act by the Education Department.

## Promotion of solar powered pumps

# It is recommended that solar powered schemes be promoted for implementation in remote, small habitations and those with irregular power supply, especially in IAP districts, by converging subsidy available under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and funds from Sustainability and Coverage components of NRDWP.

## Ensuring drinking water security through Aquifer and surface water management

# A holistic aquifer and surface water management approach with active community and PRI participation in villages at aquifer or at hydrological unit level should be followed to ensure drinking water supply.

## Chemical contamination

# A Water Safety Plan to address water quality problems should be prepared for every Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC), with technical inputs.

## Jalmani

# The present Jalmani programme of providing stand alone safe drinking water to schools should be mainstreamed and continued under the NRDWP as part of its quality component in the 12th FYP, until all the schools are covered with safe water supply systems.

## Source Sustainability

# Sustainability Plans should be prepared especially for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks for taking up scientifically located recharge measures and water harvesting structures on a watershed or aquifer basis.

## Sustainable Model of Operation & Maintenance and Service Delivery

# The weakest aspect of rural water supply is Operation & Maintenance (O&M) and there is need for raising O&M allocations. It is recommended that allocation for O&M be increased from 10% of NRDWP allocation at present to 15%.

# A progressive tariff with different pricing tiers for different uses and different classes of consumers can be considered at various administrative levels i.e. the Gram Panchayat, District and State as appropriate. Incentives may be provided to the GPs for collecting user charges from the beneficiaries. A minimum collection of 50% of O&M cost (including electricity charges) through user charges is advocated.

## Safe Water to Disadvantaged Sections

# Higher per capita cost should not be an obstacle to cover SCs, STs and Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). Norms of handpump per population, minimum population for coverage with piped water supply schemes followed by some States should be relaxed in cases of SC, ST and PTG concentrated habitations.

## Governance of NRDWP

@ The NRDWP and TSC should be administered in the State through a 3-tier Governance structure:

@ State level: A multi disciplinary Rural Water & Sanitation Management Organisation (RWASMO) at the State level in the shape of a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act.

@ The Multi disciplinary District Water & Sanitation Mission (DWSM) for each district would report to the RWASMO.

@ The Block Resource Centres would report to the DWSM and work with the Managing Committees/ VWSCs for implementing water supply and sanitation schemes.

## IEC

@ IEC for habitations affected with fluoride and arsenic etc. in drinking water and in LWE districts, should be taken up on the same

scale as that of IEC campaign for HIV/AIDS & Pulse Polio Campaign.

@ IEC should be strengthened for institutions, use of water testing kits (FTKs) taught, social mobilization through rally & door-to-door IPC by school children coordinated.

#### Capacity Building

@ National Key Resource Centres should be identified in all major States to provide continuous training and resource support.

### SANITATION

#### Vision & Goal

@ Open defecation free, hygienic and clean environment in rural India where good sanitation practices lead to positive health outcomes, greater access to education especially for the girl child, and reduction in gender empowerment differentials providing a fillip to economic betterment and consequent improved quality of life of rural society.

@ Gram Panchayats of the country should attain Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and all rural schools and Anganwadis provided with toilets by the year 2017 with interventions for adequate solid and liquid waste management.

#### Conjoint Approach to Sanitation and Water

@ Conjoint approach to sanitation and water should be strengthened by conjoint measures to increase effective usage of sanitation facilities. Convergence between Total Sanitation Campaign and National Rural Drinking Water Programme should be imperative looking to the significance of water availability for achieving sustainable sanitation.

#### Phased Approach

@ Districts should be given flexibility for fund utilization so that fund flow is accelerated to incentivize Gram Panchayats (GPs) that have achieved identified milestones of sanitation coverage to achieve full sanitation objectives.

#### Integrated Habitat Development

@ Integrated habitat development should be adopted through convergence of housing, sanitation and safe drinking water supply. Possibility of bathing facilities to be provided should be explored in the model of integrated habitat development.

#### Communication Strategy:

@ Success of the TSC is dependent on behavior changes in the community with a view to ushering in healthy and hygienic environment. Motivating the members of the community to adopt good sanitation practices is of critical importance.

@ Appropriate strategies and tools of IEC will need to be applied to persuade people for behavioural change. Personal contact and motivation and peer influences work best to attain this objective. Office bearers of the GP, members of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC), Block Resource Centre (BRC) personnel, Swachhata Doots (Messengers of Sanitation) should collaborate to bring about the desired changes.

#### Revised incentive for ODF villages:

@ NGP award should be given in two installments as at present but the 2nd installment may be released to the awarded GPs only if one year of continuous use of toilets by all households in the GP is conclusively verified.

@ The award money in respect of GPs was decided as early as in the year 2005 and has effectively reduced in value because of general rise in prices coupled with the fact that the award is given in two installments. The Ministry should, therefore, revise the award amount substantially so as to make it commensurate with the efforts made by PRIs in making the GP Nirmal.

#### Implementation mechanism

@ TSC will be implemented at the GP level through identified Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)/NGOs/CBO etc.

#### Capacity Building

@ Local wage earners/SHGs should be trained in trades such as masonry work, brick-making, toilet pan making and plumbing so that households could hire their services as per their need for construction, O&M, repairs, etc under National Rural Livelihood Mission.

#### Operation and Maintenance

@ While O&M of individual toilets should be the responsibility of the household, incentive should be provided for turning the old defunct/dysfunctional toilets into functional ones. For this purpose, identification of old dysfunctional toilets should be done with the approval of Gram Sabha/VWSC. Funds should be made available to the GPs to repair defunct/dysfunctional toilets, maintain community toilets, O&M of waste water structures and other sanitation activities. 10% of TSC funds should be earmarked for O&M/repairs.

Inclusive approach for vulnerable communities and areas.

@ Vulnerable communities like SCs, STs, PTGs, NTs, DNTs, Minorities in Minority Districts, Physically disabled, People affected with HIV should be brought under the ambit of financial assistance.

#### Monitoring & Evaluation

@ Evidence based real time monitoring will be done by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) through Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).

#### Integrated Habitat Development Scheme

@ Rural housing schemes taken up under Indira Awas Yojna (IAY) will provide toilet and domestic water facilities within the houses. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) should also be an essential component of these habitats.

@ Necessary funds for construction of toilets will be provided by MoDWS as a second stream under TSC and SLWM should be supported under MNREGS.

#### School Sanitation

@ Secondary School and Higher Education (SSHE) is an important component to ensure universal sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country. There should be designed capacity building of school teachers, ASHA and anganwadi workers on hygiene and sanitation. Education Departments in States and Centre should include functionality and usage of toilets and hygiene practices including handwashing with soap, in all inspection reports and reviews of programmes. Moreover, sanitation must made be a part of the school curriculum.

#### Prioritizing Solid and Liquid Waste Management

@ Solid Liquid Waste Management should be priorities by developing a clear roster of options and activities to be developed and disseminated through the best training institutions in India. For effective implementation of SLWM, it should be converged with MNREGA. Exhaustive capacity building of PRI representatives on SLWM should be taken up, followed by exposure visit to be arranged in other parts of state and outside the state.