

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3327  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012  
AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER  
Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane

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

- (a) the percentage of population using groundwater as a source of drinking water;
- (b) whether the Government has set any time-frame to provide safe drinking water facility to all remaining parts of rural areas in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

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

(b)&(c): To ensure availability of safe drinking water facility in all rural habitations within a timeframe, rural drinking water has been included as one of the components of Bharat Nirman. At the commencement of Bharat Nirman as on 1.4.2005, 55067 uncovered habitations, 3,31,604 slipped back/partially covered habitations and 2,16,968 quality affected habitations existed in the country. Of these targeted habitations, at the end of Bharat Nirman Phase-I, i.e. on 31.3.2009, there were 627 uncovered, 509403 slipped back/partially covered and 1,79,999 quality affected habitations yet to be covered with provision of safe drinking water. As on 1.4.2012, there are no uncovered habitations remaining in the country. However as reported by the States on the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry, out of the 16,64,186 rural habitations in the country, as on 01.04.2012, 1,04,160 are quality affected and 330,504 partially covered/slipped back habitations. To ensure that these remaining habitations are covered, State Governments have been requested to prepare their Annual Action Plans targeting to cover these habitations on priority basis. To achieve the target of providing safe drinking water to all habitations in the country, allocation of funds for rural drinking water has been increased substantially from Rs. 2,585 cr. in the year 2004-05 i.e. year preceding the launch of Bharat Nirman, to Rs. 10,500 cr. in 2012-13.