

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:213

ANSWERED ON:17.07.2009

SHORTAGE OF WATER IN METROPOLITAN CITIES

Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any assessment has been made regarding shortage of drinking water in the metropolitan cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, metropolitan city-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate any integrated comprehensive plan for adequate supply of water in the metropolitan cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the State Governments seeking Central assistance in view of the shortage of water in the respective States; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)to(f): The Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.213 FOR 17.07.2009 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF WATER IN METROPOLITAN CITIES.

As Urban Water Supply is the responsibility of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), the Ministry of Urban Development is not directly assessing the water supply & shortage in metropolitan cities having population of more than 10 lakhs as per Census 2001.

However, as per the information collected from various State Level Agencies/ULBs of 35 metropolitan cities, the per capita water supply is less than the national norm of 150 litres per capita (head) per day in 23 metro cities, whereas it is in excess of national norm in 12 metro cities. The details in this regard are given at Annexure-A.

The State Governments Departments in charge of water resources have identified the potential availability of water sources for the metro cities upto 2021 which indicates sufficient availability of water sources for metros upto 2021. However, shortages in urban water supply can be due to many reasons. Some of these are rapid population growth of cities resulting in exponential growth in water demand, inadequate water resources in the vicinity of cities hampering source augmentation, financial weakness of State Governments/ULBs preventing them from incurring huge capital investment required for augmenting water supply systems, unsustainable models of operating existing water supply systems leading to operational losses making the utilities dependent on grants for even Operation and Maintenance (O&M), problems of intra-city distribution and getting surface water from distant sources which is expensive.

In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments and ULBs in implementation of infrastructure schemes, Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December, 2005 which provides for reform-linked financial assistance for projects related to water supply amongst others. So far, the Ministry has accorded approval for 114 water supply projects for 31 metros under JNNURM at an estimated cost of Rs.15339.66 crore. The details of water supply schemes approved under JNNURM are at Annexure-B. In order to have a holistic approach of the issue urban water supply, the Ministry has drawn up Service Level Benchmarks. The Ministry is now appraising the water supply projects proposed under JNNURM as per these benchmarks. These benchmarks are in conformity with International Best Practices.