

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:77

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad

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

- (a) whether a large number of people living in the rural areas of the country have no access to safe drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the fully covered, partially covered and the quality affected areas State/UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) the details of the schemes launched for providing safe drinking water and the steps taken to provide drinking water in all the habitations of the country;
- (d) the details of the funds released for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;and
- (e) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of drinking water schemes and if so, the details of the outcome thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 77 due for reply on 8.8.2013.

(a) As reported by the States on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on 1.4.2013, out of 16,90,870 rural habitations in the country, there are 84,292 rural habitations, in which at least one drinking water source is affected by chemical contamination like excess Iron, Fluoride, Arsenic, Salinity and Nitrate. It is estimated that about 4.64 crore population in the country may be exposed to chemical contamination in drinking water.

(b) The number of fully covered, partially covered and quality affected rural habitations in the country, including in Madhya Pradesh, State/UT wise is at Annexure I.

(c) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), for providing safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the country. State Governments are empowered to plan, approve and implement rural water supply schemes.

A budgetary allocation of Rs.11000 crore has been provided for the NRDWP in 2013-14. Under NRDWP, priority has to be given to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations with safe drinking water. Up to 67 per cent of the NRDWP funds allocated to States on 50:50 Centre: State sharing basis (90:10 for North-East States and Jammu & Kashmir) is to be utilized by the States for the coverage of rural habitations with drinking water. Further 5% of NRDWP allocation is earmarked at the national level and allocated to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water or with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. In addition to this, to ensure that safe drinking water is being provided, 3 % NRDWP funds on 100 per cent central assistance basis is provided to States for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance, which inter alia includes taking up works relating to setting up and operation of new or up-gradation of district/ sub-district level water quality testing laboratories, and providing field test kits/ refills for testing of drinking water quality to Gram Panchayats. Further, up to 10 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated to States is to be utilized for promoting the sustainability of drinking water sources, through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.

(d) The details of the funds released under the NRDWP, during the last three years and the current year, State/UT –wise is given at Annexure II.

(e) Yes Madam. The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation reviews the implementation of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) periodically by conducting national and regional review meetings and video conferences with the State Department officers dealing with rural water supply. A National Consultation with State Secretaries in-charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply of all States was held on 18 February 2013 followed by a Consultation with State Ministers In-charge of Rural Drinking Water Supply on 19 February 2013. In the Consultation, the State/UT-wise physical and financial performance under NRDWP was reviewed,

good practices adopted in various states were shared and the need for a Communication Strategy on rural water supply was discussed. The progress of States in the implementation of the NRDWP is also reviewed during the Annual Action Plan discussions at the beginning of the financial year. States have been advised to expedite physical and financial progress in achieving targets under the Programme. Senior Officers/ Technical Officers of the Ministry also visit the States to observe the progress of implementation of the programme. The review meetings and visits provide information about the implementation of the Programme and enables the Government of India and State Governments to focus on the areas where progress is lacking.