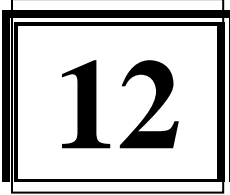


STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(2009-2010)



FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY)**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2009-10)

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Fifteenth Lok Sabha)]

TWELFTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

TWELFTH REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(2009-2010)**

(FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA)

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY)**

[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Fifteenth Lok Sabha)]

Presented to Lok Sabha on 29.07.2010

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 29.07.2010



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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(iii)

**COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(2009-2010)**

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

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Lok Sabha

1. Shri Pulin Bihari Baske
2. Shri Kunvarjibhai Mohanbhai Bavalia
3. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
4. Shri Sandeep Dikshit
5. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit
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23. Shri Silvius Condpan**
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25. Dr. Ram Prakash
26. Shri P.R. Rajan
27. Shri Arjun Singh
28. Vacant[@]
29. Shrimati Maya Singh
30. Miss Anusuiya Uikey

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri A. Louis Martin | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri A.K. Shah | - | Additional Director |

* w.e.f. 15 April, 2010

** Re-nominated w.e.f. 3 May, 2010

@ Consequent upon retirement of Shri Bhagwati Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha from membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 4 July, 2010.

(iv)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2009-2010) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Twelfth Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).

2. The Third Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to Lok Sabha on 17 December, 2010. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 24th February, 2010.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 7th July, 2010.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Third Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix-II.

NEW DELHI;
20 July, 2010
29 Asadha, 1932 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Rural Development (2009-10) deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report on Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development) which was presented to Lok Sabha on 17 December, 2009.

2. Action taken replies have been received from the Government in respect of all the 34 recommendations which have been categorised as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|-------------|---|
| (i) | Chapter II | Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government : |
| | | Para Nos.: 2.4, 3.7, 3.14, 3.23, 3.24, 4.10, 4.12, 4.14, 4.19, 4.20, 4.32, 4.33, 4.34, 4.44, 4.45, 4.46, 4.47, 4.59, 4.61, 4.62, 5.8, 5.11, 5.25, 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.29, 5.30 and 5.40 |
| (ii) | Chapter III | Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies : |
| | | Para Nos.: 3.8 and 4.11 |
| (iii) | Chapter IV | Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee : |
| | | Para No.: 4.60 |
| (iv) | Chapter V | Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited : |
| | | Para Nos. : 5.31 and 5.41. |

3. **The Committee desire that final reply in respect of recommendations (paragraph nos. 5.31 and 5.41) for which only interim replies have been given by the Government should be furnished within three months after presentation of this Report.**

4. **The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of the recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.**

A. INITIATING STUDY ON IMPACT OF FUNDS RELEASED FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND FOR CHECKING USE OF GROUND WATER AND PROMOTING RAINWATER HARVESTING.

[Recommendation Serial No. 21(Para No. 4.60)]

5. The Committee had recommended as under :-

“The Committee also appreciate that under sustainability component of NRDWP, works like artificial recharge/rainwater harvesting structures are to be taken up with a view to improving the drinking water availability in rural areas and also for reducing effects of depletion of ground water. In this connection, the Committee desire that a study be undertaken on the impact of funds released for sustainability and for checking ground water use in the country as the declining ground water is a grave problem at present. The Committee feel that depletion of ground water table is reaching a critical level and unless urgent action is taken to promote conjunctive use of water through ground, surface and rainwater, a situation of extreme water stress and scarcity may emerge. The Committee feel that the Department should work in a pro-active mode to promote rain water harvesting on a massive scale and simple methods of rainwater harvesting may be disseminated widely.”

6. The Department in the action-taken reply have stated as under :-

“The Department is promoting rainwater harvesting in a big way by urging the States to go in for conjunctive use of ground-water recharge, surface water and roof-top rainwater harvesting. A manual on “Bringing sustainability to water supply schemes in Rural India” was published and circulated to all States. A manual on “Artificial recharge of groundwater” was also prepared and circulated. These two reference documents are also uploaded on the departmental website www.ddws.gov.in.

A National Workshop on Design of Sustainability Structures was conducted in the current financial year and PHED engineers were sensitized to take up such projects.

HGM maps have been prepared and distributed to 11 States as on 1/2/2010 and similar work is ongoing for another 9 States. It is also proposed that all remaining States will be covered within the next 2-3 years. These maps can be used to identify appropriate locations for artificial recharge structures. State Governments have reported that they achieved an increased success rate of borewells drilled and indicated that more than 9,000 recharge structures were taken up using these HGM maps.”

7. **The Committee had recommended that a study be undertaken to assess the impact of utilization of funds released for the sustainability and also for checking depletion of ground water availability. The action-taken reply is, however, silent on this issue. The Committee reiterate that the study on impact of utilization of funds in this regard should be initiated immediately under intimation to the Committee.**

**B. PUBLICITY OF NRDWP THROUGH PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA
[Recommendation Serial No. 22 (Para No. 4.61)]**

8. The Committee had recommended as under :-

“The Committee also desire that those responsible for implementing the NRDWP in Central Government and State Governments, Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) should first be made very clear about the Revised Guidelines for taking the benefits of the NRDWP. Apart from this, more and more advertisements and publicity in radio, T.V. and print media should be done in a big way for dissemination of information at grassroots level on the pattern of NREGA and other social sector schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Committee also desire that a video film or documentary be shown in every Gram Panchayat at regular intervals to educate the importance of conservation and sustainability of water to rural masses and the necessary literature about the new programme should be made available in the local language of the area to Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).”

9. The Department in the action-taken reply have stated as under :-

“The Department has organized meetings with the State Government officials responsible for implementing the guidelines both at Central level and in different States to familiarize them on how to implement them in the field level. Further, the revised guidelines have also been hosted on the Department’s web-site. Two percent of the allocation under NRDWP is meant for support services like Information, Education, Communication, Advertising & Publicity, etc. and this is directly released to the States. The States are therefore required to take up various media activities in their State language for popularizing NRDWP.”

10. **The Committee are not satisfied with the Department's reply which gives an impression that dissemination of information about Revised Guidelines on new programme of NRDWP has entirely been left to the States. The Committee desire that the Department of Drinking Water Supply at national level should also play an active role in this regard and should take necessary efforts to popularize NRDWP.**

C. EXPEDITING DECISION ON INCREASING THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION FOR INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS, SCHOOL TOILETS AND ANGANWADIS

[Recommendation Serial No. 30 (Para No. 5.29)]

11. The Committee had recommended as under :-

“Another area that came up for discussion during the course of evidence of the representatives of Department of Drinking Water Supply was need for enhancement of per unit cost of construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) and Anganwadis. The Committee have been informed that the existing cost of Rs.2500/- , Rs.5000/- and Rs.20,000/- for IHHL, Anganwadis and school toilets, is barely sufficient and be suitably enhanced. The Secretary, Drinking Water Supply informed the Committee that a proposal for hiking the per unit cost of construction for Anganwadis from Rs.5000/- to Rs.8000/- and for rural school from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.32,000/- has already been submitted. The Committee would like to know whether similar proposal for hiking the per unit cost of IHHL has also been made. The Committee desire that a final decision on this issue be taken urgently for achieving the school coverage by 2010.”

12. The Department in the action-taken reply have stated as under :-

“There is no proposal by the Department to enhance the unit costs of IHHL as of now. However, the proposal for increase in cost of toilet blocks for schools and anganwadi from existing Rs.20000/- and Rs.5000/- respectively to Rs.32000/- and Rs.8000/- respectively is under consideration with the Expenditure Finance Committee.”

13. **The Committee are unhappy to note that no final decision has been taken on the issue of increasing the cost of toilet blocks for schools and anganwadis**

from Rs.20,000 to Rs.32,000 and from Rs.5000 to Rs.8000 respectively. The Committee hope that Expenditure Finance Committee will take a decision on the matter expeditiously keeping in view the objective of achieving school coverage by 2010.

D. ACTUAL SANITATION IN NIRMAL GRAM PURASKAR AWARDED VILLAGES

[Recommendation Serial No. 32 (Para No. 5.31)]

14. The Committee had recommended as under :-

“On the issue of verification of Nirmal Grams with a view to have an idea of actual Grams sanitized, the Committee have been informed by the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply that this issue is already receiving the attention of the Department and after having found large number of other wise ineligible applications for receiving the Nirmal Gram Puruskars (NGPs), the Department has curtailed the list of such Gram Panchayats. The Committee desire that a survey be undertaken for this purpose in different States to ascertain whether recipients of NGPs have actually maintained such standards subsequently also. The Committee may also be apprised of the result of the survey.”

15. The Department in the action-taken reply have stated as under :-

“The Department is in the process of identifying a survey agency to carry out survey of NGP villages for verification of their sustaining NGP status.”

16. **The Committee are glad to note that the Department is in the process of identifying a survey agency to carry out survey villages which have been awarded Nirmal Gram Puraskars for verification of their sustaining NGP status. The Committee hope that the process will be completed soon and the proposed survey carried out within a specified timeframe.**

E. ACCELERATING THE PERFORMANCE OF JALMANI SCHEME**[Recommendation Serial No. 33 (Para No. 5.41)]**

17. The Committee had recommended as under :-

“On the issue of quality of drinking water supply for the school going children, the Committee feel that the issue merits serious attention and sincere efforts need to be made in this regard. The information relating to treating polluted water through various techniques and other related issues needs to be incorporated in the syllabus of the school students so that the future generation of the country are saved from the scourge of contaminated drinking water.”

18. The Department in the action-taken reply have stated as under :-

“The Department has requested the Department of School Education & Literacy to take action on the recommendation of the Committee regarding incorporating these issues in the school syllabus.

19. The Committee would like the Department of Drinking Water Supply to pursue the matter with the Department of School Education & Literacy and inform the Committee of the final outcome in this regard.

Chapter II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para No. 2.4)

The Committee note with dismay that Department of Drinking Water Supply has not been able to comply with the direction 73 A of 'Directions by the Speaker'. The Statement by the Minister on the Thirty-Seventh Report of the Committee (2008-09) was required to be made by 21 October, 2008 as per the provisions of this Direction. However, the statement was made only on 26 February, 2009. In Committee's opinion this reflects lack of promptness on the part of Department of Drinking water Supply on the one hand and retards the consequent action on various recommendations on the other. The Committee recommend that in future it should be ensured that the Statements under Direction 73 A is made within the prescribed time limit.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been noted and it will be ensured that the Statements under Direction 73A are made within the prescribed time line.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No. 3.7)

The Committee note that with 16 per cent of worlds' population and 2.45 per cent of worlds' land resources India has only 4 per cent of world's fresh water resources. The Committee are also concerned that per capita availability of water has worsened from the level of 5,177 cubic meter in 1951 to the level of 1,820 cubic meter by 2001 which may further decline to 1,341 cubic meter by 2025 *i.e.* after fifteen years from now. The Committee note that the Revised Guidelines for the modified ARWSP renamed as NRDWP envision to ensure permanent drinking water security in rural areas. However, the impending threat of climate change and global warming in Committee's opinion may also affect rural water supply. In view of the disturbing scenario, the Committee desire that the Department of Drinking Water Supply should prepare a national perspective on the issue of rural water supply in the country.

Reply of the Government

Work has been started on preparation of a national perspective document for drinking water supply. As the first step, in order to plan for the medium and long term in the rural drinking water supply and sanitation sector, the Government of India organized a policy Round table discussion with seventy-six participants, including 42 from outside New Delhi, representing the Government, civil society, academia, research organizations and international donor organizations on the 21st October 2009. As recommended by this Round Table, a Working Group has been constituted to look into the recommendations of the Round Table, which also include issues highlighted by the Committee, and prepare a plan for action. A Steering Committee is also being set up to prepare the Strategic/Perspective Plan for the Department by end of 2010.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No. 3.14)

The Committee while reviewing the utilization position of funds during Tenth Plan (2002-2007) and Eleventh Plan (2007-2012) in rural water supply and rural sanitation sector, find with dismay that there had been under-utilisation in both the sectors to the level of 9.50 per cent and 33.60 per cent respectively. For under-utilisation under rural water supply, the Committee find that the Department has taken the plea of 10 per cent allowable carry over of funds under the guidelines. On rural sanitation, the Committee have been informed that 40 per cent of funds are released when 60 per cent of the funds are utilized so that the projects do not suffer due to want of funds. Thus, 40 per cent funds are always available as working funds for projects. In the Committee's opinion while such plea may be correct to some extent there has certainly been a degree of complacency on the part of the Department/States. The Committee, therefore, feel that attitudinal changes are desirable for approaching to the entire issue of utilization of funds. They, therefore, recommend that the Department should also set the targets for utilizing 60 per cent of the funds so that next installment is meaningfully utilized during that financial year itself.

Reply of the Government

Total Sanitation Campaign is implemented in a project mode. There are 593 district projects being implemented under TSC. The funds are released to the districts in four instalments (30%, 30%, 30%, 10%) based on eligibility. They become eligible for the next instalment only after 60% of funds released in the previous instalment have been utilized along with 60% utilization of matching state share. The last instalment of 10% as per guidelines is released after utilization of 80% of earlier released funds. Thus the instalments released to an eligible district under Total Sanitation Campaign are not necessarily annual. Strict monitoring methods are adopted to obtain the progress of each District on real time basis using the online monitoring system. Regular review

meetings/Video Conferences etc. are organized by the DDWS to discuss issues relating to implementation of the TSC. Further to minimize the unspent balance, transfer of funds from one district to another eligible district within the same State has been permitted. States have also been advised this year that they have to speed up implementation of the progress and minimize the unspent balances as on 31.03.10.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No. 3.23)

While examining the overall Budget of the Department during the last two years viz. 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, the Committee find that there is an enhancement of Rs.1,000 crore and Rs.700 crore during the years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 respectively. The Committee have been informed that funds are allocated to all States by a pre-defined criterion and any increased allocation is thus disbursed to all States. The Committee are unable to comprehend from the cryptic reply of the Department as to how the increased allocation were proportionately disbursed to the State Governments without taking into account their past performance. The Committee desire a categorical reply in this regard.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that allocation of funds under NRDWP is done based on prescribed criteria viz. rural population with weightage of 60%, rural population managing rural drinking water supply schemes with weightage of 10% and States under DPAP, HADP and special category Hill States in terms of rural areas with weightage of 30%. It may be noted that on allocation of the funds, only the 1st installment is automatically released to the States. For release of the 2nd installment, the State has to send a request in the prescribed format when the utilization of available funds has exceeded 60%. In the case of non-performing states where unspent balance at the beginning of the financial year is high, the unspent amount in excess of 10% of available funds is deducted from the amount of the second installment. Hence non-performing states lose on account of excess unspent balances. Poor performing States also cannot apply for the 2nd installment if they do not utilise 60% of the available funds. The savings thus accrued are released to better performing States.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No. 3.24)

While reviewing the allocation vis-à-vis expenditure position during Eleventh Plan, the Committee find that as against the agreed outlay of Rs.47,306 crore, the expenditure was Rs.16077 crore during first two years viz. 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 of the Plan. The Committee find that if the Budget estimates of Rs. 9300 crore for 2009-2010 are added, the total comes to Rs. 25,377 crore. The Committee feel that for optimal utilization of Eleventh Plan allocation, annual expenditure of the order of over Rs.9,500 crore per annum is desirable. In this connection, the issue of resource crunch on rural sanitation for current year as also for remaining two years viz. 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 has been highlighted before the Committee by the Secretary, DWS. The Committee have been informed that during 2009-2010 with a Budget of Rs. 1200 crore for rural sanitation, the Department is facing the resource crunch of the order of Rs.500 crore. The Committee have been informed that as against Central share of Rs.11,094 crore required to be made during the Eleventh Plan, Rs.4700 crore has so far been released to States indicating a shortfall of Rs.6300 crore. The Committee also conclude from the aforesaid analysis that in order to achieve the targets of rural sanitation by 2010 and targets for school coverage by 2012 adequate allocation is not being made. Besides, these schemes of the Department have tremendous impact on improving rural infrastructure. The Committee strongly recommend to the Department to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance/Planning Commission for getting adequate allocation commensurate with the requirements, with a view to achieve inclusive growth so that the benefits are shared by the poorest of the poor in the country and make sincere efforts to fulfill their mandate of providing safe adequate drinking water to the rural people.

Reply of the Government

The matter of higher allocation of fund under TSC was taken-up with Planning Commission. In response, it was informed that it was not possible to allocate additional funds during the current financial year. However, during the discussions for Annual Plan 2010-11, Planning Commission had assured the Department about higher allocation for the year 2010-11. The Planning Commission has communicated an allocation of Rs. 10,580 crore for the Department for 2010-11 (an increase of 15% over the 2009-10 allocation) of which Rs. 9,000 Crore is proposed for NRDWP and Rs. 1,580 crore for TSC.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para No. 4.10)

The Eleventh Plan document has brought out grave scenario prevailing in the country on Drinking Water and Rural Sanitation characterized by large number of slipped back habitations, huge number of quality-affected habitations, declining ground

water table, declining per capita availability of drinking water and staggering 39 per cent of rural population without basic sanitation. The Committee's examination has revealed that even after decades of planning and huge investment of the magnitude of Rs.15,200 crore in this sector, the actual coverage of rural water supply has reached to the level of only 74 per cent and for rural sanitation it is only 61 per cent as on today. This speaks volumes about actual implementation of various schemes that have been run by the centre from time to time. The Department has made out their case before the Committee explaining that increased water pollution due to industrial activities, growth of population and increasing requirement of water for agricultural sector have been largely responsible for the above scenario in rural water supply. Coupled with these, the Committee have also been informed that there has been a general reluctance by States for pricing of water and regulating its extraction. Increased population and enhanced infrastructure activities have been given as reasons for slow progress in rural sanitation. The Committee urge the Department to make all out efforts to achieve full coverage in providing safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas in the country.

Reply of the Government

The Department is making all efforts to achieve full coverage in providing safe drinking water and sanitation in rural areas in the country.

As stated in reply to para 3.8 all efforts will be made to achieve full coverage of the remaining 627 uncovered habitations by 2010-11 and the quality affected habitations by end of 2011-12 in Bharat Nirman Phase II. In order to halt slippage of already covered habitations, the Department will be monitoring the implementation of sustainability measures for all drinking water sources. The Department will continue its efforts to dialogue with the Ministry of Water Resources and the States on regulating and controlling the extraction of ground water in the critical and over-exploited blocks. The IMIS monitoring system enables linking of habitation to census code to scheme and target. While preparing the Annual Action Plan for 2010-11, the States have been requested to give first priority to the coverage of uncovered and quality affected habitations as identified by them. The Department will hold discussions with the States on the Annual Action Plan for 2010-11 to ensure this. The States that have performed well in providing drinking water access to rural areas will be encouraged to move up the Water Ladder in terms of providing more quantity and reliable piped water through household connections.

The TSC was started taking reference of Census 2001 for providing sanitation facilities to the uncovered rural households. With the same base, the sanitation coverage in the rural area is 68.2 % as of now. The broader aim of the TSC is to cover total households including the new households arising because of increased population. It was estimated at the time of 11th Plan that a total of 7.29 crore households shall be required to be covered with sanitation facilities. With the revision in district projects it is now estimated that a total of 8.89 crore households are required to be covered with sanitation facilities on the same base, out of which, 2.94 crore households have since been covered with sanitation facilities. The present achievement taking into consideration the increased number of households to be covered as per the TSC projects is at 61.44 %. The spread of schools and anganwadis has also increased. Besides, it is felt that the number of toilets in schools should be in proportion to the

student strength and separate toilet blocks should be available for girl students in co-ed schools. This entails higher investment in the TSC.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para No. 4.12)

The Committee have been informed that 80 per cent of rural drinking water supply is based on ground water and less than 1 per cent of this, is used for drinking water purposes. The remaining is used for other purposes like irrigation and industries causing slippages in coverage. As a result, transport of drinking water in rural areas has to be made from far flung areas at huge cost. The Department has admitted before the Committee that various other reasons like shortage of technical manpower and resource constraints in most of the States are the reasons for slower progress. In order to address all these issues the Department has come out with a new approach for rural water supply under Revised Guidelines which inter-alia envisage a paradigm shift on surface water, ground water and rain water in a big way for future needs, enhancing funds for sustainability and operation and maintenance to help the States after taking into confidence different State Governments. In Committee's opinion, since the Programme has been started from April 2009 it is too early to comment on its implementation. However, the Committee feel that the Department should see that the new Programme is implemented in letter and spirit so that the Committee can review the progress under the new approach while examining Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Department. In order to overcome the shortage of slippages of rural water sources, the Department should hold consultations with other related Ministries like Irrigation and Industry to bring forward a new approach on the pattern of Revised Guidelines so that necessary policy initiatives are taken in those areas also. The Committee would like to know the views of Department in this regard.

Another area that has attracted the attention of the Committee is about State's reluctance on the issue of pricing of water and regulation of its extraction. The Committee feel that since water is a State subject, the need of the hour is to arrive at a consensus on the complex issue of pricing and regulation of extraction of water. The Committee, therefore, would impress upon the Department to start the process among different States on this issue. The Committee may also be apprised of the outcome of the exercise."

Reply of the Government

Water is a State subject. At Government of India level, as per Allocation of Business Rules, 'water resource' as a subject is with the Ministry of Water Resources. Drinking water sector uses a very small fraction of total water resources. As pointed out by the Committee, pricing and regulation of extraction of water pertains to States. The Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Ground Water Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water for among the States for adoption.

As part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change a National Water Mission with the objective of “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution, both within and across States through integrated water resource development and management “ has been set up. The Department of Drinking Water Supply is represented in the Advisory Board of the Mission headed by the Union Minister of Water Resources and the High Level Steering Committee of the Mission. Through this Mission, the Department will pursue the goal of ensuring drinking water security, in consultation with related Ministries like Water Resource, Agriculture and Industry, through policy initiatives for regulation and control of groundwater development, increasing efficiency of water use in agriculture, industry and urban water use so as to protect existing drinking water sources in rural areas.

In the rural drinking water sector, States are encouraged to devolve the power to operate/ maintain water supply systems to PRIs for which financial incentive has also been provided in the NRDWP. These PRIs can also decide about the charges to be levied for water services.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para No. 4.14)

The Committee’s examination has revealed that in the area of policy intervention the rural water supply sector has become a testing laboratory of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. The Committee find that starting with ARWSP in 1972-73 for providing adequate drinking water; in 1985-86, the Department started with major focus on water quality; in 1999-2002 the Department experimented with Swajaldhara concept involving community participation and in 2009 National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was started. The Committee feel that the new approach is a welcome step in rural water supply. However, the Committee feel that there is no need for frequent policy changes and from now onwards emphasis should be on actual implementation on war footing basis.

Reply of the Government

Service delivery in the drinking water sector is constantly evolving, often due to developments in the States and new challenges that come up. The Department undertakes changes in policy accordingly. It is making all efforts to ensure that the new guidelines are implemented in a professional manner by holding regular meetings with the State officials at the Central and State level, conducting workshops and Conferences so that there is a regular interchange of ideas and emerging issues are resolved.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para No. 4.19)

The Committee are dismayed to note that performance in rural drinking water supply which is one of the six components of mega Programme of Bharat Nirman has not been well so far during 2009-2010 in terms of coverage of uncovered, slipped back and quality-affected habitations. For instance, for uncovered habitations, the Committee find against the target of 624 the achievement is only 3. Similarly, for slipped back habitations against the target of 25,482 the achievement is as low as 439. Coming to quality-affected habitations against the target of 75,000 the achievement has plummeted to 93 only. The Committee have been informed that such dismal performance is owing to variety of reasons like considerable time taken by different State Governments for mainstreaming activities consequent upon enforcement of new guidelines, time taken in tackling natural calamities like drought and floods witnessed early this year in many States. The Committee desire that a separate mechanism be evolved to tackle the natural calamities so that the assigned tasks before the Department relating to the important schemes do not suffer. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The views of the Committee to evolve a separate mechanism to tackle natural calamities have been conveyed to all States.

The latest (18.2.2010) State-wise achievement in terms of coverage of the targeted uncovered, slipped back and quality affected habitations is at Annex I.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para No. 4.20)

The Standing Committee had been persistently recommending for achieving of targets in this area. In the Thirty-Seventh Report also (para no. 5.10 *refers*), the Committee had impressed upon about the same. Though the Department are optimistic about achieving the target, the ground reality in this regard suggest otherwise. The Committee would like the Department to shed their complacent approach and undertake concrete and strict measures to ensure achievement of the targets by the States. The Committee may be apprised of the concrete action taken in this regard.

Reply of the Government

As reported by the States, during the Bharat Nirman period (2005-2009), 50168 habitations had been fully covered with potable water supply in the water quality affected habitations. In respect of 2.59 lakh water quality affected habitations, projects had been given technical and administrative approvals. As these projects are long

gestation projects, the goal of the Department is to cover all water quality affected habitations with safe drinking water by the end of 2011. During 2009-10, the target is to cover 34,596 of these habitations, of which 10,195 have been reported covered as on 31.01.2010.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para No. 4.32)

The Committee are amazed over the fact that on the one hand the coverage of rural drinking water supply is only 74 per cent and for rural sanitation it is still lower at 61 per cent. On the other hand, there are huge unspent balances as on 31.10.2009 to the tune of Rs.3109.46 crore for rural water supply and Rs.1259.59 crore for rural sanitation. The Committee find that this is piquant situation and as such the Committee do not approve of the same. The Committee's examination has revealed that the figures of unspent balances as given in Outcome Budget (2009-10) of the Department laid before Parliament were not updated and were not even indicated to be provisional in the case of rural sanitation. The Committee have now been given updated figures. The Committee, however, feel now that coming with provisional and old figures on the ground that States have not updated these figures, does not augur well with the Department. The Committee, therefore, feel that since Outcome Budget is a public document and authentic source of information, the Department should come out before the Parliament with updated figures.

Reply of the Government

The observation of the Committee to report the updated figures in the outcome budget will be complied with. The opening balances under NRDWP were Rs. 1470.75 crore as on 1/4/2009. The 1st and 2nd installments amounting to Rs. 5824.83 crore have been released so far. The expenditure from Central funds as on 22/2/2010 is Rs. 3604.60 crore. Cumulatively it may thus be seen that expenditure is more than the opening balance as on 1.4.2009.

The central share out of the total Project outlay for TSC for all 593 project districts is Rs.11,094 crore as of now, out of which, an amount of Rs.4169.32 crore was released till 31.3.2009. As per the existing guidelines, an amount of Rs.1667 crore (maximum amount as per 40% balance to become eligible for next instalment) could be available with the States. Further, an amount of Rs.517.76 crore was released during the current year upto 31.10.2009. Thus against a cumulative amount of Rs.2184.70 crore with the States, the unspent balance as on 18/2/2010 was Rs.1206.96 crore. It is expected that with further expenditure reported by the States, as being pursued by the Department this figure will further come down.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para No. 4.33)

The Committee have analysed that there are volumes of unspent balances in rural water supply and rural sanitation. The Committee find in rural water supply as per the latest figures such balances amount to Rs. 3109.47 crore. The major States where these unspent balances are lying are Bihar (Rs.570.38 crore), Maharashtra (Rs.359.34 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs.201.73 crore) etc. Similarly, on rural sanitation as per the latest figures of Rs.1259.60 crore, the major States against which unspent balances are lying are Bihar (Rs.143.63 crore), Andhra Pradesh (Rs.130.39 crore), Uttar Pradesh (Rs.126.58 crore) etc. During the course of evidence, the Committee have been informed by the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply that on the issue of unspent balances some money always lies with States. On the rural water supply, the Committee have also been informed that States have already liquidated unspent balance as per latest information. The Committee appreciate this development. However, in the absence of latest figures, the Committee are unable to comment further on the issue. The Committee desire that the required information be made available to the Committee so as to arrive at a logical conclusion.

Reply of the Government

The information of State wise figures of opening balances as on 1.4.2009, releases during the year and expenditure upto 22/2/2010 is given in Annex II. As can be seen, except in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand, all the other States have liquidated their unspent balance of 1/4/2009.

The reasons for slow financial progress are given below:

1. Many States had not reported their targets as well as achievements during the period due to delay in plan allocation being conveyed. Targets for those States were fixed by the Department.
2. Severe drought affecting nearly half the districts the country, forcing States to utilize calamity funds and Departmental manpower for taking up contingency measures to tackle the immediate drinking water crisis to the detriment of regular expenditure on ongoing projects. This has affected the progress adversely.
3. Physical and Financial progress of schemes are to be reported only through the online IMIS reporting system from 1/4/2009 leading to teething problems in reporting by many States.

Steps taken:

1. State-wise reviews with poor performing States, Video-conferences with States, and State Secretaries Conference were held; monitoring visits were made; letters were written to expedite progress in utilization of funds.
2. IMIS was launched to ensure fast reporting. Difficulties in reporting by some States are being sorted out. Video conference with States was held on IMIS. Meeting with MIS coordinators was also held in February, 2010.
3. Second installment of NRDWP funds was released to all eligible States by 31st December 2009 to expedite progress.”

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para No. 4.34)

On the issue of unspent balances in rural sanitation, the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply candidly admitted before the Committee that the situation has not at all improved. Various reasons like 40 per cent release after expenditure of 60 per cent of the funds have been advanced in this regard. The Committee, however, recommend that the States be advised to submit timely proposals for releases leaving no room for unspent balances. They also suggest, the States should be asked to furnish specific reasons for unspent balances/non-utilisation of resources. Such mechanism will not only make the States accountable but would also help the Union as well as the State Governments to take remedial measures.

Reply of the Government

As desired, all the States have been advised to analyze the reasons for outstanding unspent balances and inform the Department. Further, all the States have been requested to bring the balances down to the minimum. As mentioned earlier, to reduce the unspent balance, transfer of funds from one district to another eligible district within the same State has been permitted.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para No. 4.44)

The Committee are disappointed to note that there are large number of quality-affected habitations in the country largely due to problem like arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrate even when a full fledged programme of 'National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme' for tackling the above problem was in operation since February, 2006. The Committee are also concerned to note that

after the launch of the above Programme not only the number of quality affected habitations but the number of States having such habitations has increased from 5 States in 2006 to 14 States in 2009. The Committee also find that the number of quality affected habitations except for nitrate affected habitations has significantly increased. The Committee have been informed that many of the habitations in the country which are reported as water quality affected have been addressed with projects which are under various stages of implementation. The Committee find the reply as very vague since it does not spell out category wise number of quality affected habitations in different States. In the absence of the requisite data the Committee are unable to comprehend about the work actually done in this regard. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should furnish detailed data in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The aim of National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance programme is to create awareness among the rural community about various water quality problems and to sensitize them for affirmative action to address these problems. It has been observed that once water quality monitoring and surveillance started, more number of habitations was tested for various water quality problems and more quality affected habitations were identified and reported.

At the start of Bharat Nirman, there were about 2.17 lakh rural habitations affected with various water quality problems. During the first phase of Bharat Nirman (2005-06 to 2008-09), in all, 2.59 lakh rural habitations, reported to be affected with water quality problems, have been "addressed" with projects by the States. In four years (2005-06 to 2008-09), as per manual reports received, 50,168 quality affected habitations have been covered. Since quality problems of groundwater sources depends on a number of factors viz. over exploitation, poor recharge, drought, leaching of domestic sewage and industrial effluents, geogenic leaching, etc., the number of such quality-affected habitations keeps on changing and it is a dynamic figure. As per the online IMIS of the Department, as on 1.4.2009, States have reported about 1.80 lakh rural habitations into the online IMIS, having different kinds of water quality problems. Out of these, 33,317 habitations have been reported on the online IMIS as covered with completed schemes upto 31.3.2009 and during the current year 2009-10 (as on 19/2/2010), 13,715 habitations are reported to be covered with completed schemes. The discrepancy between the previously manually reported coverage figure of 50,168 habitations during Bharat Nirman period and online IMIS figure of 33,317 covered habitations may be because some of the State Governments are yet to update their statistics online. For the remaining quality-affected habitations, projects are at different stages of planning and execution

Of the 9,504 Arsenic affected habitations as on 1/4/2009, 1,968 habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water prior to 2009-10 and in the current year a further 672 habitations were reported covered during the completed schemes.

Of the 33,357 Fluoride affected habitations as on 1/4/2009, 7,114 habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water prior to 2009-10 and in the

current year a further 2,702 habitations were reported covered during the completed schemes.

Of the 1,01,872 Iron affected habitations as on 1/4/2009, 20,715 habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water prior to 2009-10 and in the current year a further 9,105 habitations were reported covered during the completed schemes.

Of the 32,689 Salinity affected habitations as on 1/4/2009, 3061 habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water prior to 2009-10 and in the current year a further 976 habitations were reported covered during the completed schemes.

Of the 2,577 Nitrate affected habitations as on 1/4/2009, 459 habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water prior to 2009-10 and in the current year a further 260 habitations were reported covered during the completed schemes.

The Statement of category-wise number of quality affected habitations covered in different States is at Annex III.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para No. 4.45)

The Committee are aware that tackling the arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the country is the priority of the Government. However, the Committee are constrained to note that required work in this regard has not been done in the right earnest. It is needless to point out that contaminated harmful sources of water in rural areas in the country may cause a severe crisis. The Committee emphasize that all the efforts made with regard to improving the coverage status and bringing about sustainability of sources and the systems become meaningless in the absence of clean and safe drinking water. The Committee, therefore, desire that efforts aimed at tackling the contamination of water should be intensified. They would like to be informed of the measures taken in this direction.

Reply of the Government

Arsenic in drinking water is a slow killer while fluoride is a slow crippler. Therefore the Department has given highest priority in tackling these two water quality problems. In West Bengal, a State level Arsenic Task Force was constituted in May'2001 to provide expert advice on tackling arsenic problems in drinking water sources. Planning Commission had also set up a National Task Force which prepared a strategy paper for tackling arsenic problems in the country in July, 2007. A Strategy paper on arsenic mitigation in rural drinking water sources has been prepared in October, 2008 and sent to those States which are affected. Both for arsenic and fluoride contamination, States have been advised to move away from affected ground water sources to safe surface water sources. Further, during dialogues/ review meetings/

video-conferences held with the State Government officials, suggestions were made to them to adopt dilution of excess fluoride through artificial recharge and roof-top rainwater harvesting systems for augmenting drinking water in fluoride affected areas. Special projects for providing safe drinking water through rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge in fluoride affected areas were also taken up in collaboration with NGRI, Hyderabad. In addition, various R&D projects have been taken up to arrive at environment friendly and user friendly domestic/ community level treatment systems for arsenic and fluoride removal, duly tackling reject management issues.

In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Department of Science and Technology has started a Mission on "Winning, Augmentation and Renovation of Water Resources". The mission's objective is, to find "timely, urgent, cost-effective, socially viable and sustainable techno-management solutions" for solving the problems of water scarcity including that of water quality. The Mission has identified arsenic, fluoride, iron, biological contamination and salinity as water related challenges for tackling which, proven technological solutions will be tried out in selected locations. The results of the application of these solutions will help the Department and the States in introducing new solutions to tackle the contamination of water on a sustainable and cost-effective basis.

As suggested by the Standing Committee, every effort will be made by the Government to tackle Arsenic and Fluoride contaminated habitations at an early date.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para No. 4.46)

The Committee also find that under the Revised Guidelines, 20 per cent funds are being given for tackling the quality affected habitations with 100 per cent funding from the Centre. The Committee feel with this, there should not be any alibi for not performing in this important area. The Committee has been constantly recommending for expeditious work in their previous Reports and had also dealt with the issue in their latest 37th Report (para no. 5.10 *refers*). The Committee, therefore, desire that all out and time bound efforts should be made in this regard. The Committee expect the Department to gear up on these lines.

Reply of the Government

As per NRDWP guidelines, that are effective from 1/4/2009, upto 20% of funds are earmarked for tackling water quality problems on 50:50 sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. The States have been asked to prioritize tackling quality affected habitations while preparing their Annual Action Plan. The Department will monitor the preparation and implementation of these Plans to ensure that quality affected habitations are tackled in a time-bound manner.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para No. 4.47)

The Committee also note with disappointment that even after online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) monitoring of quality affected habitations and full fledged water quality testing apparatus available in the country, the contaminated water is not being treated in various quality affected habitations. The Committee, therefore, desire that available testing facilities be fully utilized for treating the contaminated quality affected habitations spread over various States of the country. On the issue of salinity affected habitations, the Committee are surprised to hear from the Department that they have no scientific proof about increase in number of such habitations. The Committee wonder how in the absence of such scientific data the Department is going to solve the problem of salinity affected habitations in the country. The Committee, therefore, expect a categorical reply in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The data on water quality affected habitations is updated by the State Government every year based on water quality testing being done. In order to strengthen the efforts of State Government in conducting water quality testing of large number of sources, a provision has been made in the NRDWP guidelines, to set up water quality testing laboratories at the sub-divisional level in the State Public Health Engineering Department/Board dealing with rural drinking water supply.

The State Governments have reported setting up of 607 district water quality testing laboratories for regular testing of quality of drinking water sources. State Governments have also reported setting up of 127 water quality testing laboratories at the sub-divisional level. As reported by different States during 2009-10, 1.33 lakh water samples have been tested in laboratories.

In addition 1.28 lakh field test kits have been procured and distributed to Gram Panchayats and 6.07 lakh people have been trained for carrying out regular testing at village level of their own drinking water sources under the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme. More than 87,000 water samples have been tested by rural grassroots level persons using field test kits.

Water samples are also tested for salinity using standard laboratory tests in the district and sub-divisional laboratories. Based on these water quality test results the salinity affected habitations are identified by the States. When the same are reported on the Departmental IMIS, these are taken into account by the Department.

To tackle salinity affected habitations, the State Governments have been advised to adopt the following methods:

1. Wherever, feasible, the inland salinity concentrators may be diluted through artificial recharge.
2. Move away from salinity affected sources to alternate safe water sources in the vicinity.

3. Augment availability of safe drinking water by roof water harvesting.
4. When all the above measures fail, RO technology may be adopted with appropriate reject management strategy.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20, Para No. 4.59)

The Committee appreciate that a paradigm shift from over dependence on ground water to surface water and roof water for addressing the availability of drinking water in rural areas has been evolved under the modified ARWSP renamed as 'National Rural Drinking Water Programme' (NRDWP) that is being implemented *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2009. The Committee also appreciate that for sustainability and for Operation & Maintenance (O&M) purposes, the distribution of annual budget allocation has been hiked to 20 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. The Committee trust that this will get desired results in covering slipped back habitations as also making available funds for O&M purposes for repairs of existing drinking water supply assets. However, here again the Committee apprehend that inspite of major policy interventions, the ground situation may remain the same and last man in the row in rural areas may not get the benefit of enhanced funds for rural water supply programme. The Committee, therefore, recommend that mechanism available under the revised guidelines should be put in place in all States in a time bound manner for getting the desired results.

Reply of the Government

All States have been asked to set up institutional mechanisms for implementation of the Guidelines. These are the State Water and Sanitation Mission, District Water and Sanitation Mission, Village Water and Sanitation Committee and the Water and Sanitation Support Organisation.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para No. 4.61)

The Committee also desire that those responsible for implementing the NRDWP in Central Government and State Governments, Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) should first be made very clear about the Revised Guidelines for taking the benefits of the NRDWP. Apart from this, more and more advertisements and publicity in radio, T.V. and print media should be done in a big way for dissemination of information at grassroots level on the pattern of NREGA and other social sector schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The Committee also desire that a video film or documentary be

shown in every Gram Panchayat at regular intervals to educate the importance of conservation and sustainability of water to rural masses and the necessary literature about the new programme should be made available in the local language of the area to Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

Reply of the Government

The Department has organized meetings with the State Government officials responsible for implementing the guidelines both at Central level and in different States to familiarize them on how to implement them in the field level. Further, the revised guidelines have also been hosted on the Department's web-site. Two percent of the allocation under NRDWP is meant for support services like Information, Education, Communication, Advertising & Publicity, etc. and this is directly released to the States. The States are therefore required to take up various media activities in their State language for popularizing NRDWP.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.10 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 22, Para No. 4.62)

The Committee also learn that the Department has brought out two sets of documents and has forwarded these to States for implementation - one pertains to sustainability captioned 'Bringing Sustainability to drinking water systems in rural India' and the other on convergence under the Caption 'Convergence of various watershed/water conservation'. The Committee feel that these valuable things do not percolate at grassroots level at all. The Committee, therefore, recommend that such important documents be made available to PIAs for effective implementation of the revised guidelines so that they do not remain on paper.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the publication titled "Bringing Sustainability to drinking water systems in rural India" was published in 2007-08 and the same is also available in the Department's web-site. The PIAs are free to access the publication.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24, Para No. 5.8)

While reviewing the project planning and implementation, the Committee are astonished to find that all is not well on this important area also. The Committee find that as per latest figures out of the total of around 1.62 lakh schemes (0.49 lakh PWS schemes and 1.13 lakh other schemes) under the Department, only 39,454 have been completed while the remaining are ongoing or proposed schemes. The Committee are also constrained to note that in PWS scheme the major States that are not performing well are Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Rajasthan. The Committee have been informed that on line monitoring in all the States is at present available. In view of this, the Committee are unable to understand as to why large number of ongoing schemes are still waiting for completion. The Committee desire that all out efforts should be made by the Department for completion of the pending projects.

Reply of the Government

As desired by the Committee, the Department will try to ensure completion of all ongoing schemes at the earliest. In the Annual Action Plan preparation guidelines the States have been requested to take up ongoing schemes for completion in the first instance. This will be emphasized during the Plan discussions to be held in March, 2010 with the States and will be further monitored during the year.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 25, Para No. 5.11)

The Committee's examination has revealed that various World Bank funded drinking water projects are being implemented in the country out of which some have been completed. The Committee are constrained to note that out of the five projects under implementation, in three such projects in Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra there is a time overrun. Two of these were to be completed in 31.12.2007 and the third was to be completed in June, 2007. The Committee have been informed that on the request of the State Governments these projects are surviving on extensions recommended by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA). The Committee would like the Department to ensure completion of these projects in time.

Reply of the Government

It is submitted that the externally aided projects are implemented by the concerned State. The Department facilitates the process and ensures that the key policy aspects are taken in account while designing and implementing the projects. The reasons for seeking extension for such project are also scrutinized before recommending them to Department of Economic Affairs. Usually, additional components are agreed for implementation from additional funding being made available in Rupee terms due to fluctuating Dollar rates. Also, time overruns occur as

these projects are reform oriented and consultations with PRIs and community take longer time than estimated.

The reason for extension for Maharashtra project was that out of 3022 Gram Panchayats, work in 368 GPs was lagging due to local problem at the Gram Panchayat level, elections of several such Gram Panchayats and consequent changes in constitution of VWSC. By September 2009, exit process in 784 GPs had been fully completed, another 1961 GPs were expected to complete the exit process by March 2010 and in the balance 277 GPs where the schemes would be completed by March 2010, it would take a few more months after March 2010 to complete the exit process. Completion of accounts and audit process also would take at least six months. Therefore, the Jalswarajya Project was extended for one year i.e. upto September 2010.

In case of Kerala, all physical targets envisaged in the Project Appraisal Document had been achieved on time. However, saline intrusion had taken place due to the Tsunami. To rectify this condition, a joint venture scheme with Kerala Water Authority had been taken up with World Bank Assistance in the extended period.

In Karnataka, the second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Jal Nirmal was ending during 2009. They had further requested for the third project under this programme. Appreciating the encouraging results emanating from the implementation progress of the ongoing World Bank assisted Jal Nirmal Project (Feb. 2002-June 2009), the World Bank had conveyed its willingness to continue its support to the development initiatives of the State Government in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation sector in Karnataka by way of a repeat project, mainly to address the issues of water quality affected habitations in Karnataka.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26, Para No. 5.25)

The Committee wish to emphasise that like rural water supply sector, another equally important sector is rural sanitation since there is a direct relationship between water, sanitation and health. The Committee feel that rural sanitation has to improve if India has to find a place among the developed nations. However, the Committee's examination has revealed that as against the huge investment of around Rs. 8000 crore, the actual rural sanitation has reached only upto 61 per cent in the country. The Department has submitted before the Committee that rural sanitation is being taken care of under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) started in 1999. This is a demand-driven scheme with project cost being shared among Centre, States and beneficiary and the goal of TSC is to achieve full household coverage by 2012. The Committee apprehend whether with the present pace of activities, the project objectives in all the components of TSC like construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL), school

toilets, Anganwadi and community complex would be achieved as scheduled. For instance, as against the project objective of 11.98 lakh individual household latrines, the achievement is as low as 5.83 lakh. Similarly, for school toilets against the target of 11.96 the achievement was 9.15 lakh and in Anganwadi toilets, against the target of 4.38 lakh, the achievement was 2.86 lakh. The above figures speak volumes about the performance of Department under TSC scheme. The Committee desire that the pace of the Programme should be accelerated keeping in view that only 61 per cent coverage has been achieved with regard to rural sanitation in the country when the target is to achieve full household coverage by 2012.

Reply of the Government

There are 593 district projects being implemented under TSC. The total project outlay for completion of project objectives has been estimated at Rs.17885 crore. Thus with the investment of Rs.8000 crore, 61 percent sanitation coverage in the rural areas has been achieved. The updated figures on achievements are as under:

Component	Objective (Units)	Achievement (as on 02.02.2010)
IHHL	12.02 crore	6.12 crore
School Toilets	11.96 lakh	9.48 lakh
Toilets for Anganwadis	4.38 lakh	3.01 lakh

All the States are being continuously pursued to accelerate the pace of implementation of TSC so as to achieve the project objectives as per the set goals.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 27, Para No. 5.26)

About lower performance on Anganwadis the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply expressed her helplessness on this issue as Anganwadis are largely being run in private buildings and State Governments are reluctant to spend Government money on private buildings. In this connection the Committee find that the TSC Guidelines brought out by the Department are very clear on the issue. As per the Guidelines where Anganwadis are being run on private buildings the owner must be asked to construct the toilet as per design, and he/she may be allowed to charge enhanced rent for the building to recover the cost of construction. The Committee desire that the Guidelines on TSC must be followed. The Committee observe that it is a matter of shame for the country that after more than five decades of planned development our children in the school do not have the basic facility of toilet. The Committee again strongly recommend to take all out initiatives to ensure that all the schools in rural areas have the toilet facility within the shortest possible time.

Reply of the Government

The directives of the Committee have been noted. All the States are being continuously pursued to accelerate the pace of provision of School toilets so as to achieve the project objectives as per the set goals.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para No. 5.27)

The other area which in Committees' opinion needs urgent attention is generation of awareness on inculcating the habit of using the toilets by rural masses so that toilets constructed are at least used. In this connection, the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply, agreed with the Committee that non-usage of toilets already constructed largely in schools is due to weakness on the part of project authorities at field level. The Committee feel that there may be several instances where toilets constructed may not have adequate water availability and may become dysfunctional over a period of time or the people do not have the mindset to use the toilets. The Committee urge to the Department to take steps so that spreading awareness about the use of toilets is included as part of the programme itself.

Reply of the Government

The Total Sanitation Campaign is a demand driven software based campaign. As per the provisions contained in the guidelines, 15% of the project outlay is to be utilized on IEC activities to create awareness about need for sanitation and hygiene to generate demand for toilets and promote their usage. State are being requested from time to time to use innovative IEC methods like behavior change communication (BCC) and community led approaches to generate demand and accelerate the pace of TSC implementation.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Para No. 5.28)

The Committee have been informed that necessary awareness can be generated by way of emulating the examples of forming of Eco. Club or School Cabinets amongst school teachers and students for supervising sanitation work. The Committee feel that this is a noble idea. The Committee desire that State-wise details of such mechanism available in different States be furnished to the Committee. At the same time, other States should be advised to move on similar lines for achieving awareness in this regard.

Reply of the Government

The concept of creating awareness and maintaining school toilets through school cabinets amongst students for supervising sanitation work and good hygiene practices was communicated to all State Secretaries in charge of sanitation and school education & literacy through a letter jointly signed by Secretary, DWS and Secretary, Dept of School Education and Literacy during Sept 2008. As per the information available with the Department, the states of Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are already following the concept of school cabinet. Other states are also being pursued to adopt the above concept for achieving awareness in this regard.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para No. 5.29)

Another area that came up for discussion during the course of evidence of the representatives of Department of Drinking Water Supply was need for enhancement of per unit cost of construction of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) and Anganwadis. The Committee have been informed that the existing cost of Rs.2500/- , Rs.5000/- and Rs.20,000/- for IHHL, Anganwadis and school toilets, is barely sufficient and be suitably enhanced. The Secretary, Drinking Water Supply informed the Committee that a proposal for hiking the per unit cost of construction for Anganwadis from Rs.5000/- to Rs.8000/- and for rural school from Rs.20,000/- to Rs.32,000/- has already been submitted. The Committee would like to know whether similar proposal for hiking the per unit cost of IHHL has also been made. The Committee desire that a final decision on this issue be taken urgently for achieving the school coverage by 2010.

Reply of the Government

There is no proposal by the Department to enhance the unit costs of IHHL as of now. However, the proposal for increase in cost of toilet blocks for schools and anganwadi from existing Rs.20000/- and Rs.5000/- respectively to Rs.32000/- and Rs.8000/- respectively is under consideration with the Expenditure Finance Committee. [(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.13 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para No. 5.30)

Two other important issues relate to the convergence of sanitation work in NREGA works and linking health with sanitation; and the verification of Nirmal Grams which have been recipients of Nirmal Gram Puruskar in previous years. On the first issue the Committee have been informed by the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply that by and large, the required convergence has already started as works relating to digging of pits for rural toilets are being done under the NREGA. On the issue of linking sanitation with health the Committee would like to hear the views of the Department.

Reply of the Government

The Department has been promoting the need for sanitation linking it with the impact on health. In convergence with NRHM under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Village Water and Sanitation Committee has already been named as Village Water, Health and Sanitation Committee. As a result, the workers/volunteers linked to NRHM like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Auxiliary Nurse and Mid-wife (ANM) are the key motivators for demand generation for sanitation facilities and hygiene education.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial Nos. 33, Para No. 5.40)

The Committee are glad to note that Jalmani stand alone water purification system has been started in November last year to provide safe and clean drinking water to children studying in schools with an allocation of Rs.100 crore. The Committee have been informed by Secretary, Drinking Water Supply that under the programme, State Governments have been asked to identify schools facing quality related problem. As per latest figures 12,00 schools have been covered and in December, 2009 the progress would be reviewed. However, the Committee find that against the target of 50,000 schools the actual coverage has been only 12,00 so far and only Rs.32.34 lakh have been spent on the scheme out of Rs.100 crore. In view of this position, the Committee recommend that greater efforts are necessary for the success of the programme.

(Recommendation Para No. 5.40)

Reply of the Government

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 100 crore was released to various State Governments under Jalmani Programme for installing 50,000 Standalone Water Purification Systems in rural schools of the States.

As regards the observation made by the Committee on the slow pace of the progress of implementation of Jalmani Programme, it is submitted that the scheme was launched in November 2008 and the first installment funds were released in February

2009. The States were sent the list of suggested technologies and products. They had to identify suitable technologies and products appropriate to their requirements and also identify rural schools where there were bacteriological contamination, iron and/or turbidity problems in drinking water sources. Further, they had to go through the process of tendering and short-listing before contracts were awarded. In some States like Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Punjab and Mizoram this process has been completed. As on date, systems have been installed in 10,663 schools and an expenditure of Rs 8.95 crore has been reported into the online IMIS as on 19/2/2010. Many other States have completed the procurement process and have stated that systems will be installed in schools by March, 2010. This Department has constituted a High Level Monitoring Committee for Jalmani Programme to review its progress and to ensure speedy implementation. The progress of the scheme has been reviewed with poor performing States through individual State reviews, by videoconferences and by sharing good models from good performing States.

The Department has requested the Department of School Education & Literacy to take action on the recommendation of the Committee regarding incorporating these issues in the school syllabus.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Chapter III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para No. 3.8)

The Committee also note that under the aforesaid guidelines the norms of per capita availability of water has been replaced with ensuring drinking water security for all. In the light of declining per capita availability in coming years and in the light of impending effect of climate change and global warming the Committee would like to know as to how in the absence of per capita availability norm, the Department of Drinking Water Supply is going to achieve the aforesaid objective of ensuring permanent drinking water security in rural areas in the country. The Committee are unhappy to observe that the revised guidelines do not spell out the time-frame for achieving the objective. The Committee would like to know a categorical reply in this regard after interaction with the Ministry of Water Resources, if necessary, in order to arrive at a logical conclusion so as to have a better understanding of the subject in view of the Copenhagen Summit on climate change being held during December this year.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry of Water Resources has set up a National Water Mission, based on the National Action Plan of Climate Change. The Department of Drinking Water Supply is represented in the Advisory Board of the Mission headed by the Union Minister of Water Resources and the High Level Steering Committee of the Mission. There is also an ongoing interaction with the Ministry of Water Resources with regard to availability of water resources, monitoring of ground water for level and contaminants and technical solutions for recharge. Concerns of the Department for rural water supply have been included as one of the goals in the National Water Mission as follows:

Goal 3 - Focused attention to over-exploited areas

- Intensive rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge programme to cover 1120 over-exploited, critical and semi-critical blocks during XI Plan and rest to be covered in XII Plan and 30% of the urban areas by March 2012.
- Intensive rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge programme to cover all the blocks by March 2017.

As per the Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change titled "Climate Change and Water" published in June 2008, climate change alone may not be responsible for declining availability of drinking water. Other factors like increasing population in concentrated areas, increasing urbanization, increasing drawal of water for irrigation and industry and need to improve water governance are other major factors affecting availability of drinking water.

These have been sought to be addressed in the National Rural Drinking Water Programme guidelines. In the revised guidelines of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the Department has set aside 20% of the allocation for “Sustainability” component on 100% Central share basis to ensure sustainability of drinking water sources and drinking water security. Under this component, States are required to prepare district-wise Drinking Water Security Plans (DWSP) in convergence with schemes like MNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), afforestation schemes etc. The NRDWP Sustainability component will be used to fund the gaps in this plan. The DWSPs have specific sustainability measures for sources and systems with major emphasis on areas where ground water availability is low, rainfall is limited and habitations suffer from quality related factors.

In the old guidelines, a habitation constituted 20 households or 100 persons with permanently settled population with no safe water sources. In the revised guidelines, this restriction has been removed and all households are now to be covered with uniform norms of water supply, as decided by the respective State.

The earlier norm of coverage was to supply 40 lpcd at a distance of 1.6 kms in plains and 100 mts elevation in hilly areas. Many States had progressed much ahead in providing better access. Hence under the new Guidelines, the States have been given flexibility to fix their own norms. However for the purpose of comparability of coverage figures, the Department has requested States to report coverage against the norm of 40 lpcd at a distance of 500 mts in plains and 50 mts elevation in hilly areas.

The Department has planned to cover all the remaining 627 uncovered habitations (as on 1.4.2009) with safe drinking water by 2010-11.

Under Bharat Nirman, the quality affected habitations were sought to be “addressed” with approval of projects. The achievements reported under Bharat Nirman were for approval of projects to tackle quality problems, which was taken to mean “addressal”. However actual number of projects completed is different from “addressal”. This is because the projects approved and undertaken to tackle water quality have a longer implementation period of 2-3 years, as developing a safe alternate source and treatment plants and pipelines etc. take longer. In the last year of Bharat Nirman Phase I, i.e. end of 2008-09, out of a total of 2,05,930 habitations reported as addressed during the year, 21,531 habitations were reported as covered with completed projects. The remaining 1,84,399 habitations were reported as addressed with projects. However on the online IMIS, the States have reported that there are 1,79,999 quality affected habitations as on 1/4/2009. Out of these, during the Bharat Nirman period(2005-06 to 2008-09), on the online IMIS, 32,751 habitations have been reported covered with completed schemes leaving a balance of 1,47,248 quality affected habitations remaining to be covered in Bharat Nirman Phase II. Of these the States have targeted to cover 36,875 habitations in 2009-10 of which 13,715 have been reported covered as on 19.02.2010. It is also submitted that with more testing, over-extraction of groundwater, leaching of fertilizers, contamination of sources by untreated industrial effluents, sewage etc the number of quality affected habitations may increase from the present reported figures. However, all efforts will be made to cover the quality-affected habitations by end of 2011-12.

As regards, slipped back habitations this is a dynamic process due to various factors like drying up of sources, contamination of sources with chemical or bacteriological contamination, population increase, systems outliving their lives etc. This is sought to be tackled by emphasizing on taking up sustainability measures to achieve sustainability of drinking water sources and water supply systems. It may not be possible to give any time-frame for covering slipped back habitations for this reason.

The above figures are for coverage of habitations. However in a habitation some households may have access to safe and adequate drinking water whereas others may not have access. A habitation is considered as covered only when all households in the habitation have access to safe and adequate drinking water. Under the new NRDWP guidelines the goal is to provide all households with drinking water security. Therefore the percentage of households having access to improved or protected sources of drinking water is also an indicator of coverage of drinking water security. This indicator is used by the United Nations for measuring a country's progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal for drinking water. As far as this indicator is concerned the latest available sample survey of households i.e. NFHS-3 2005-06 data shows that 84.2% of rural households obtained drinking water from an "improved" i.e. a safe drinking water source.

The same NFHS-3 survey also reported that 12% of rural households got piped water within their premises and 16% from public taps. Some of the more developed States have covered more than half of their rural population with piped water supply. It is the vision of the Department that gradually all rural areas should be covered with piped water supply systems and all rural households should get access to piped water within their premises.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para No. 4.11)

Tracing out the progress in rural water supply, the Committee have been informed that with the Department's sustained efforts, the coverage of drinking water in rural areas has improved from 55.45 per cent in 1991 to the level of 86.77 per cent in 2001. By 2006, as per the Department's information 97 per cent rural coverage has been achieved. Similarly, on rural sanitation, the Committee have been informed that coverage of 21.9 per cent in 2001 has gone upto 61.29 per cent in October, 2009. Thus, two sets of figures have been provided to the Committee in respect of drinking water coverage and rural sanitation. The Committee, express their displeasure over supply of two different sets of data relating to the important schemes of the Department. The Committee are of the opinion that these figures of coverage in terms of rural drinking water supply and rural sanitation are deceptive and are not at all convincing. The Committee, therefore, recommend that a time bound village to village survey should be carried out to arrive at figures of actual coverage at ground level.

Reply of the Government

The Department relies on information provided by the State Governments in presenting the progress in rural water supply coverage. However, recognizing the lack of consistent and reliable figures of coverage, the Department has put in place the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) for NRDWP to provide more consistent and authentic habitation level data. Under the IMIS, every habitation in rural areas has been uniquely linked to a census village code and every scheme taken up under NRDWP has to be linked to an identified habitation. The field level staff of the State Department in charge of rural water supply enter the data of population in every habitation that is covered by safe and adequate water supply. It is also submitted that the first phase of Census 2011 comprising house listing and housing census is being done from April, 2010. This will provide the most authentic data of actual coverage of drinking water at ground level for all villages in the country. Hence it is submitted that at the present stage, a separate village to village survey for this purpose may not be needed.

The sanitation coverage reported in the rural areas from time to time is on real time basis based on online monitoring system. The Gram Panchayat has been identified as the smallest unit for the purpose of sanitation coverage. The data in respect of every Gram Panchayat in the 593 TSC districts is updated by the District level officials. Besides, program evaluation is also being carried out by PEO Division of Planning Commission.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Chapter IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para No. 4.60)

The Committee also appreciate that under sustainability component of NRDWP, works like artificial recharge/rain water harvesting structures are to be taken up with a view to improving the drinking water availability in rural areas and also for reducing effects of depletion of ground water. In this connection, the Committee desire that a study be undertaken on the impact of funds released for sustainability and for checking ground water use in the country as the declining ground water is a grave problem at present. The Committee feel that depletion of ground water table is reaching a critical level and unless urgent action is taken to promote conjunctive use of water through ground, surface and rain water, a situation of extreme water stress and scarcity may emerge. The Committee feel that the Department should work in a pro-active mode to promote rain water harvesting on a massive scale and simple methods of rain water harvesting may be disseminated widely.

Reply of the Government

The Department is promoting rainwater harvesting in a big way by urging the States to go in for conjunctive use of ground-water recharge, surface water and roof-top rainwater harvesting. A manual on “Bringing sustainability to water supply schemes in Rural India” was published and circulated to all States. A manual on “Artificial recharge of groundwater” was also prepared and circulated. These two reference documents are also uploaded on the departmental website www.ddws.gov.in.

A National Workshop on Design of Sustainability Structures was conducted in the current financial year and PHED engineers were sensitized to take up such projects.

HGM maps have been prepared and distributed to 11 States as on 1/2/2010 and similar work is ongoing for another 9 States. It is also proposed that all remaining States will be covered within the next 2-3 years. These maps can be used to identify appropriate locations for artificial recharge structures. State Governments have reported that they achieved an increased success rate of borewells drilled and indicated that more than 9,000 recharge structures were taken up using these HGM maps.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking
Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 7 of Chapter I of the Report)

Chapter V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para No. 5.31)

On the issue of verification of Nirmal Grams with a view to have an idea of actual Grams sanitized, the Committee have been informed by the Secretary, Drinking Water Supply that this issue is already receiving the attention of the Department and after having found large number of other wise ineligible applications for receiving the Nirmal Gram Puruskars (NGPs), the Department has curtailed the list of such Gram Panchayats. The Committee desire that a survey be undertaken for this purpose in different States to ascertain whether recipients of NGPs have actually maintained such standards subsequently also. The Committee may also be apprised of the result of the survey.

Reply of the Government

The Department is in the process of identifying a survey agency to carry out survey of NGP villages for verification of their sustaining NGP status.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.16 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial Nos. 34, Para No. 5.41)

On the issue of quality of drinking water supply for the school going children, the Committee feel that the issue merits serious attention and sincere efforts need to be made in this regard. The information relating to treating polluted water through various techniques and other related issues needs to be incorporated in the syllabus of the school students so that the future generation of the country are saved from the scourge of contaminated drinking water.

Reply of the Government

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 100 crore was released to various State Governments under Jalmani Programme for installing 50,000 Standalone Water Purification Systems in rural schools of the States.

As regards the observation made by the Committee on the slow pace of the progress of implementation of Jalmani Programme, it is submitted that the scheme was launched in November 2008 and the first installment funds were released in February 2009. The States were sent the list of suggested technologies and products. They had to identify suitable technologies and products appropriate to their requirements and also identify rural schools where there were bacteriological contamination, iron and/or turbidity problems in drinking water sources. Further, they had to go through the process of tendering and short-listing before contracts were awarded. In some States like Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Punjab and Mizoram this process has been completed. As on date, systems have been installed in 10,663 schools and an expenditure of Rs 8.95 crore has been reported into the online IMIS as on 19/2/2010. Many other States have completed the procurement process and have stated that systems will be installed in schools by March, 2010. This Department has constituted a High Level Monitoring Committee for Jalmani Programme to review its progress and to ensure speedy implementation. The progress of the scheme has been reviewed with poor performing States through individual State reviews, by videoconferences and by sharing good models from good performing States.

The Department has requested the Department of School Education & Literacy to take action on the recommendation of the Committee regarding incorporating these issues in the school syllabus.

[(O.M. No. 11-RD(2)/2/(1)-CRD/2009 dated February, 2010 Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development)]

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No.19 of Chapter I of the Report)

NEW DELHI;
20 July, 2010
29 Asadha, 1932 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2009-2010)

**EXTRACTS OF THE MINUTES OF THE TWENTIETH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, THE 07 JULY, 2010**

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1630 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi

PRESENT

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

Members

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Sanjay Dhotre
3. Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy
4. Shri Sidhant Mohapatra
5. Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar
6. Shri P.L. Punia
7. Shri A. Venkatarami Reddy
8. Shri Jagdish Sharma
9. Shri Jagdanand Singh
10. Shri Makansingh Solanki
11. Shri Kodikkunnil Suresh
12. Shrimati Usha Verma
13. Shri Ramesh Vishwanath Katti

Rajya Sabha

14. Shri Ganga Charan
15. Shri P.R. Rajan
16. Shrimati Maya Singh

Secretariat

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri A. Louis Martin | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Shri A.K. Shah | - | Additional Director |

2. The Chairperson welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration of Memoranda containing draft Reports of the Committee on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in four Reports on Demands for Grants (2009-10).

APPENDIX II

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRD REPORT OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(15TH LOK SABHA)**

I.	Total number of recommendations :	34
II.	Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government :	29
	Para Nos. 2.4, 3.7, 3.14, 3.23, 3.24, 4.10, 4.12, 4.14, 4.19, 4.20, 4.32, 4.33, 4.34, 4.44, 4.45, 4.46, 4.47, 4.59, 4.61, 4.62, 5.8, 5.11, 5.25, 5.26, 5.27, 5.28, 5.29 and 5.30	
	Percentage to total recommendations :	(85.30)
III.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies :	2
	Para No.: 3.8 and 4.11	
	Percentage to total recommendation	(5.88)
IV.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee :	1
	Para No.: 4.60	
	Percentage to total recommendations :	(2.94)
V.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :	2
	Para Nos. : 5.31 and 5.41	
	Percentage to total recommendation :	(5.88)