

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3649
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION CONDITION
De Dr. Ratna

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

- (a) the extent to which the drinking water and sanitation scenario in various States including West Bengal has improved during the last three years;
- (b) the details of funds released and utilized under drinking water and sanitation scheme during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether some States/UTs have not fully utilized the funds released;
- (d) if so, the details and the along with reasons therefor; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) As per Census 2011, 84.2% of rural households had access to improved sources of drinking water, while as per the 69th NSSO report released in December 2013, it is estimated that 88.50 % of rural households now have access to improved sources of drinking water supply. State/UT-wise details including West Bengal is at Annexure I.

Similarly, as per Census 2011, 32.7% of rural households had access to toilet facilities in the country, while as per 69th NSSO report, it is estimated that 40.6% rural households have access to toilets in the country. State/UT-wise details including West Bengal is at Annexure-II.

(b) The State/UT wise details of fund released and utilised under National Rural Drinking Water Programme for last three years and the current year is at Annexure III.

Details of central share released and utilised by the States during the last three years and current year under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA) is at Annexure-IV.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) and (e) The details of unspent balance of funds available with the States under the NRDWP and NBA as on 10.02.2014 are at Annexures V and VI respectively.

Under NRDWP, the funds are released to the States in two installments. The second installment is released when States submit Audited Statement of Accounts (ASA) and Utilization Certificates (UC) showing utilization of at least 60% of available funds. Most of the States submit these only by November/December and therefore the second installment which is about 50% of the total allocation, is released only by the month of December.

This is one of the reasons why States have huge balances with them in the months of January to March every year. Further, from 2012-13, the first installment of funds to the States is also being released, taking into account the excess unspent balance of the previous years (in compliance Office Memorandum (No - 7 (1) E. Coord/2012 of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance dated 31.05.2012 aimed at keeping a check on unspent balances) and this has also resulted in a delay in release of the full 1st installment and therefore a delay in claiming of the 2nd installment by the States.

The Ministry monitors the progress of implementation of NRDWP through the financial reports provided by the States on the online Integrated Management Information System. The Ministry also monitors the proper utilization of funds by reviewing the programme periodically by conducting conferences of the State Secretaries/Engineer in Chiefs in charge of rural water supply, regional review meetings, video conferences etc.

The States have also been asked to prepare and approve a shelf of projects with an estimated cost of two to three times the quantum of available funds so that there is no slippage in utilization of funds. Under NRDWP, States with high opening unspent balance are

penalized by deducting excess Outstanding Balance (OB) from the second installment.

In respect of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), the reasons for States not fully utilising of funds include :

Slow progress in implementation due to changes in the guidelines for the NBA, which has brought about convergence with MGNREGS for additional assistance.

Low demand in rural areas.

Inadequate capacity building at grass root levels.

To tackle the above situation various methods have been adopted to monitor the progress of the implementation of the NBA in each district. An online monitoring system has been set-up to monitor the monthly physical and financial progress of each district. Regular review meetings and video conferences are organized by the Ministry to review issues relating to implementation of the NBA and the utilization of funds and to provide advice to States on accelerating the implementation of the programme.