

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4417

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) whether per-capita availability and supply of potable water in the country is at par with standards set by the World Health Organisations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Union Government has allocated funds to the Maharashtra and Odisha Governments to generate drinking water from sea water; and
- (d) if so, the funds allocated to these States for the desalination projects during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise?

**Answer**

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

(a) and (b) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the norm for providing drinking water supply in rural areas was 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) for humans which are required to meet the needs of drinking, cooking, bathing, washing utensils and ablution, based on basic minimum need. In the revised NRDWP guideline which is now under implementation from 2013, the minimum requirement has been increased to 55 lpcd.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published 'Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality' which are addressed primarily to assist the water and health regulators, policy makers and their advisors and to assist in the development of national standards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), taking assistance among others, from the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, has prescribed the requirements for the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes in its standard IS-10500. The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines indicates that water is defined as safe, if the chemical and bacteriological parameters are within the standards as prescribed in BIS Standard IS-10500.

(c) and (d) Drinking Water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the NRDWP to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. Under the NRDWP, the State Governments including the State of Maharashtra and Odisha are vested with the powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes which inter alia includes setting up of desalination plants.

Under the NRDWP no funds are provided separately to States for desalination projects, however the funds provided to the States under NRDWP in the last three years and the current year State/UT wise is at Annexure.