

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:259

ANSWERED ON:07.12.2009

DRINKING WATER FACILITIES

Mani Shri Jose K.;Pakirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to mitigate the drinking water problem particularly in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan prepared for the purpose alongwith the quantum of investment made and the results achieved so far, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. C. P. JOSHI)

(a)to(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 259 admitted for reply on 07.12.2009.

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. Under Bharat Nirman, of which rural drinking water is one of the important components and conceived as a plan to be implemented in four years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure, Government of India had set a target of coverage of 55,067 uncovered habitations and 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations and addressing 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations. The State-wise physical achievements for the period 1st April 2005 to 30th November 2009 for each of these three categories is at Annexe I. The entire strategy and focus of the Department and its current programme in the field for the Eleventh Plan as laid down in the National Rural Drinking Water Programme guidelines is:

- i) towards the coverage of the remaining uncovered, slipped back and quality affected habitations,
- ii) ensuring sustainability in all drinking water schemes, so that the phenomenon of recurring slippage does not occur, and
- iii) incentivising States to handover management of rural drinking water schemes to Panchayats by suitably empowering them and building up their capacities.

The State-wise fund allocation and release for the period 1st April 2005 to 30th November 2009 is at Annexe II.

The steps taken to expedite the availability of drinking water in rural areas, inter-alia, are:

Increased budgetary support during the Bharat Nirman period. The central allocation increased from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 5200 crore in 2006-07, Rs. 6500 crore in 2007-08, Rs. 7300 crore in 2008-09 and Rs. 8000 crore in 2009-10.

Promoting conjunctive use of surface water, groundwater and rainwater.

Encouraging sustainability measures for drinking water schemes by providing enhanced Central share.

Encouraging convergence with existing government programmes like NREGS and Soil and Water Conservation Programmes to augment recharge and availability of water.

For economically weaker states of North-East and Jammu & Kashmir, the fund sharing pattern for the States has been liberalized from the previous 50:50 (Centre : State) to 90:10 (Centre:State) to ensure that they have sufficient funds to implement drinking water schemes.