

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4244
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
IMPROVED SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

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

- (a) whether as per a recent report of UNICEF, India ranks second among the top ten countries that are home to two third of the global population without an improved drinking water source;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue and progress made therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) and (b) No Madam. As per the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) report, 2014 update published by the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF), 91% of rural population had access to improved drinking water source in 2012. This figure is based on estimations made by JMP from multiple data sources.

(c) To ensure that the rural population of the country has access to safe and adequate drinking water supply through improved drinking water sources on a sustainable basis the Government of India administers the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), through which financial and technical assistance is provided to states to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water through schemes like piped water supply schemes and hand pumps to the rural population. Under NRDWP, the states are to give priority to cover quality affected and partially covered habitations with adequate safe drinking water in their Annual Action Plans.