

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1480  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017  
Safe Drinking Water  
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

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

- (a) whether execution of rural drinking water projects has been tardy since only 44.5% of the funds have been used and 53.5% works have been completed till 2016 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether providing safe drinking water to every person in rural areas of the country will be a huge challenge for the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to ensure that safe drinking water is provided to the entire population of the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) & (b) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), this Ministry has released Rs. 5263.66 Crore till 07.03.2017 against the budgetary allocation of Rs. 6000 Crore to various States. With the opening balance of Rs. 1598.37 Crore as on 01.04.2016 with States, total availability of funds is Rs. 6862.03 Crore. Against this, utilization by the States is Rs. 3227.88 Crore which comes to 47.03%. A substantial amount has been released to the States as 2nd instalment recently. This will be utilized soon and as such percentage of utilization will increase substantially by the end of the year as used to be in previous years.

The focus of the Ministry is the completion of ongoing schemes. In the year 2016-17 a total of 20,157 number of schemes have been completed till 6.3.2017.

(c) & (d) Providing drinking water supply to rural areas of the country is a dynamic process. The coverage made under this sector slips back to some extent due to various reasons viz. life span of drinking water scheme getting over, depletion in ground water level due to less rainfall, contamination of sources etc. However, this Ministry continuously striving on providing drinking water to each person of the rural areas of the country by assisting States financially and technically. For the purpose, a Strategic Plan for the rural drinking water sector has been prepared for the period 2011-2022, which stresses on extending the piped water supply to more households in the rural areas. By 2022, the goal is to cover 90% rural households with piped water supply.