

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3214
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2014
AVAILABILITY OF WATER
De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna

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

- (a) whether any evaluation has been done during the last two years to know the availability of drinking water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to improve the availability of drinking water, particularly in the peak summer season across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) and (b) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) , at present the minimum norm for providing drinking water supply in rural areas is 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) which is required to meet the needs of drinking, cooking, bathing, washing utensils and ablution, based on basic minimum need. State Governments, have been given the flexibility to fix their own higher norm based on water availability, demand and capital cost involved. Under the NRDWP, supply of the minimum required quantity of safe drinking water is monitored in terms of coverage of rural habitations. Per capita availability of drinking water in the country is not monitored by the Ministry .

(c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. However under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, this Ministry` provides financial and technical assistance to States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to rural population. To increase the availability of drinking water, the Ministry has suggested to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. Hydro Geomorphological Maps (HGM) are being used for accurately locating new drinking water sources in the field. As per the data entered by the States/UTs on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry the State/UT wise sustainability structures taken up from 2009-10 onwards are given at Annexure I .Government of India is taking steps to cover rural habitations and households with adequate safe drinking water supply on a continuous basis. In the last 10 years , the year-wise additional habitations covered with minimum 40 lpcd norm is at Annexure -II.