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Title : Need to allocate funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme taking into account the size of the State along with the number of habitations and relative backwardness of the State particularly for Orissa.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water supply Programme (ARWSP) provided for development of drinking water sources at the rate of one tube well for every 250 unit of population and villages with a population of 150 were also eligible for tube wells. The revised scheme of National Rural Drinking water Programme provides for drinking water in all habitations regardless of the population size. In Orissa, out of above 1,41,000 habitation, there are about 23,000 habitations with a population of below 150 each. Instead of enhancing the central share under the revised National Rural Drinking Water Programme, the same has been reduced as per the revised norms. Orissa had received Rs. 302 crores during 2008-09 against which the allocation earmarked by the Ministry last year was Rs 187 crores. Government should take into account the size of the State along with the number of habitations and relative backwardness for determining the Central share. As per revised norms, allocation is being considered on the basis of population.

I would urge upon the Government to reconsider the matter and provide funds taking in account the number of habitations.