

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.328**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018**

**Potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra**

**\*328. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that rural Maharashtra is facing acute shortage of potable water for decades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken by Government till date to minimise the shortage and to provide the facility of potable water in rural areas of Maharashtra?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**  
**(SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)**

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the house.

**Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 328 due for answer on 26.03.2018**

(a) & (c) As per the information received from State Government of Maharashtra, drinking water scarcity is estimated to be faced by 26,341 villages and 12,956 hamlets. Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. States are empowered to plan, design, implement and execute rural drinking water supply schemes for providing potable drinking water in rural areas. This Ministry supplements the effort of state governments by providing technical and financial assistance. As reported by State Government of Maharashtra, 47205 schemes of various types such as construction of new bore wells, special repairs to Piped Water Supply (PWS), special repairs to bore wells, temporary PWS, completion of ongoing schemes, water supply through tanker, acquisition of private wells / bore wells, deepening of wells, desilting of wells is proposed to be implemented in 26,341 villages and 12,956 hamlets with estimated cost of Rs. 573.13 crores for tackling the scarcity conditions. Moreover, this Ministry has directed the States to focus more on PWS schemes with perennial sources. The States have also been directed for early completion of the schemes which are in advanced stage of completion. While doing so, priority is to be accorded to the schemes meant for Arsenic / Fluoride affected habitation. Further, the states have also been advised to pool more funds from their own resources / loan from external / domestic financial agencies. Moreover there is enhanced devolution of funds to States from 32% to 42% under Fourteenth Finance Commission. With this increased devolution of funds, the States can take up proper operation and maintenance of rural drinking water supply schemes to cater to the need of rural population.

\*\*\*\*\*