

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1777
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

Deaths due to Water Pollution and Unsafe Sanitation

1777. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

- (a) whether water pollution and unsafe sanitation are responsible for a large number of deaths in the country and it is also affecting the average lifespan of the citizens;
- (b) if so, the number of people died in the country due to water pollution and unsafe sanitation during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA)

(a) & (b): Water pollution and unsafe sanitation are globally regarded among reasons for deaths and for affecting the average lifespan of people. Different estimates have suggested different figures for deaths potentially due to water pollution and unsafe sanitation, as it is not possible to attribute these deaths to water pollution and unsafe sanitation alone. Hence no such data is maintained with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Rural drinking water and sanitation are state subjects. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides technical and financial assistance to the States.

(c): For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the states by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). The State Governments plan, design, approve, execute and operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population.

Further, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had launched the National Water Quality Sub-Mission on 22nd March 2017 under NRDWP to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 arsenic / fluoride affected habitations over a span of 4 years, subject to availability of funds.

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM(G)) has been launched on 2nd October, 2014, which aims at attaining Swachh Bharat by 2nd October 2019. The focus of the scheme is on behavior change and usage of toilets. Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), there is a provision of an incentive of Rs. 12,000 for the construction of Individual household latrine (IHHL) to all Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and to identified Above Poverty Line (APL) households (all SCs /STs, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped and women-headed households). Since the launch of the Mission, the national sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 39% to 75%.
