

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.951
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017

Drinking Water and Sanitation Issues

951.SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the UNICEF India has lauded the Government's approach in solving drinking water and sanitation issues and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any mechanism to review and react on strategies and approaches promoted by the Government in connection with Drinking Water and Sanitation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is struggling to cope up with the objective of the Drinking Water Scheme on Sustainability of water supply in terms of Portability, Adequacy and Convenience and equity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes Madam, as per news reports in some newspaper, during the month of July, 2017, United National Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)India has lauded the Government's approach in solving drinking water and sanitation issues. Reportedly, it has been said by UNICEF India that transparency and openness with stakeholders will be beneficial towards undertaking innovative measures. The comments were made by Chief of WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) UNICEF India, Nicolas Osbert while addressing an Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) conference titled 'Wash for All: Innovative approaches'.

SBM (Gramin): Yes, Madam. Mr. Nicolas Osbert, Chief of WASH, Unicef, while addressing an Assocham conference on 19.7.2017 lauded the Ministry of

Drinking Water and Sanitation's approach towards solving issues concerning lack of drinking water and sanitation. He mentioned that the transparency and openness of Ministry with stakeholders are beneficial towards undertaking innovative measures.

(b)& (c) Providing drinking water supply to the rural population is a dynamic and continuous process. The physical & financial progress of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is monitored in National / Regional / State level review meetings, conferences and video-conferences. The last National Level Review Meeting with State Ministers and Secretaries of Departments of State Governments for Rural Drinking Water Supply was held on 22nd March, 2017. Performance of States is also reviewed during Annual Action Plan (AAP) meetings held during February/March by the Ministry every year. In the last review meeting, States have been asked to focus on completion of ongoing schemes with special focus on Arsenic/Fluoride affected habitations, SansadAdarsh Gram Yojna (SAGY) Gram Panchayats and Open Defecation Free declared villages.

SBM (Gramin): Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), Ministry regularly organize brain-storming workshops with public policy researchers, media person, District Collectors, Development partners working in the field of Sanitation. One on such session was organised on 17.5.2017. In the workshop, discussions were held on the SBM (G) progress, strategies and approaches adopted so far and the way forward.

(d) & (e) In order to cope up with the objective of the Drinking Water Scheme on Sustainability of water supply in terms of Portability, Adequacy and Convenience and equity, this Ministry has restructured the NRDWP making it more competitive, result oriented and outcome based.