

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3278
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

Pollution-free Drinking Water Sources

3278. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

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

- (a) the action plan and effective measures taken for making sources of drinking water pollution free;
- (b) the targets set for providing pure drinking water to all the people in rural areas;
- (c) whether action in this regard is being taken effectively;
- (d) if not, the details of implementation deficiencies noticed in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these deficiencies?

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

- (a) Water is a State subject. The implementing agencies under State Governments draw water for rural drinking water supply schemes from groundwater sources or surface water sources and treat the same suitably for making it contamination / pollution free. However, there are 71,242 rural habitations in the country which are contaminated with chemical contaminants and States have been advised to address them.
- (b) With the restructuring of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the goal is to provide safe and adequate piped drinking water supply to all the rural people by 2030.
- (c) to (e) Rural Water Supply is a State subject. Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation under the centrally sponsored NRDWP provides financial & technical assistance to State Governments for rural drinking water supply. The responsibility of implementation and execution of various water supply schemes under the programme lies with the State. This Ministry has directed the States to cover the rural households with Piped Water Supply with sustainable safe source. To achieve this, the States have been advised to pool more funds from State plan in view of the enhanced devolution of funds under the 14th Finance Commission and to arrange external assistance or loan from lending institutions over and above the funding from this Ministry under NRDWP. There is also direct funding of substantial amount to rural local bodies for various basic services including water supply. In addition to all these, wherever, possible convergence of activities through other centrally sponsored programmes are also solicited to reduce the dependence on central share. In 2017, NRDWP has been restructured to make it more result oriented and competitive.