

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

Water Infrastructure in Villages

6349.SHRIMALYADRISRIRAM:

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

- (a) the reasons for giving priority to allocation of piped water supply to those Gram Panchayats that achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP);
- (b) whether the Government proposes to prioritize those locations for allocation of piped water supply that face water scarcity instead of considering ODF status, as many places which face sewerage crisis have been reporting constant slippage from the ODF status or have been unable to reach that status in the first place;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the measures taken by the Government towards addressing the challenges faced in creating water infrastructure at Gram Panchayat level?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Keeping the importance of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) in mind, this Ministry has advised the States to accord priority for Piped Water Supply in ODF declared villages under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). This has been done to achieve ODF status and to prevent the slippage.
- (b) & (c) In addition to prioritize ODF villages, this Ministry has also prioritized the areas where there is problem of Arsenic/Fluoride contamination or the same is coming under Aspirational districts as notified by NITI Aayog, etc.
- (d) Providing drinking water in rural areas is a dynamic process. The coverage of rural habitations depends on many factors which includes availability of water sources, availability of funds. This Ministry has restructured National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guideline to make it competitive, outcome based and result oriented. As per restructured NRDWP, the focus of this Ministry is piped water supply (PWS) schemes. Further, this Ministry has directed States to focus on completing the schemes which are at advanced stage of completion while according priority to the schemes meant for Arsenic / Fluoride affected habitation, Open Defecation Free (ODF) declared villages, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) Gram Panchayats, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) / Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) districts and Aspirational districts. The states have also been advised to pool more funds for drinking water supply sector out of funds provided to rural local bodies and enhanced devolution of funds from 32% to 42% under 14th Finance Commission. The Ministry intends to focus on coverage of rural population with pipe water supply and household connection ultimately by 2030 to honor the commitment made by the country in the international forum while agreeing for UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-2030.