

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION**  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 427**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018**

**Access to Safe Drinking Water**

† 427. **Dr. A. Sampath**

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

- (a) the corrective measures taken by the Union Government to improve the quality of underground water in rural areas for providing safe drinking water, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to improve access to safe drinking water in rural areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION**  
**(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

(a) to (c) Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. 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). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute and operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population.

The Ministry has informed all the States to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all water quality affected habitations as a long term sustainable solution.

The funds provided under NRDWP can be utilized for coverage and tackling drinking water quality problems with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations. Further, 2% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected 60 high priority districts in 5 states.

States have also been advised to install community water purification plants as a short-term immediate measure for providing 8-10 lpcd (litre per capita per day) of safe water for drinking and cooking purposes. On recommendation of NITI Aayog, the Government of India has released Rs 800 crore in March' 2016 as one time central assistance to states affected with arsenic and fluoride contamination for setting up community water purification. Funds to the tune of Rs.100 Crore each has also been provided to West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes for tackling arsenic and fluoride problems for the last mile connectivity.

In addition, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission on 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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