

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2686

TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.12.2018

Drinking Water in Rural Areas

2686. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM,
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has set any target of providing piped water supply in rural areas in a time bound manner and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any special scheme/package to achieve this target in this regard and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is not able to provide piped drinking water to even 50 per cent of all rural households;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government is aware of problem of arsenic and fluoride affecting habitation in the country and if so, the quantum of funds released by the Government during the last three years to mitigate the concern of arsenic and fluoride?

ANSWER

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

(a)& (b)As per restructured National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guideline, the focus of the Ministry is on coverage of all rural households with Piped Water Supply. As reported by States on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, 55.14% of rural population has been provided with Piped Water Supply. This Ministry has recently launched 'Swajal' programme in 117 Aspirational districts identified by NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog. Swajal has been conceived as a community demand driven, single village, preferably Solar Powered piped water supply schemes which will help in increasing the outreach of drinking water in underserved rural areas.

(c)& (d)As reported by States on IMIS, 55.14% of rural population have been provided with Piped Water Supply and 17.93% of rural household have been provided with tap connection. Ministry has taken corrective measures for increasing the coverage of Piped Water Supply in rural areas like restructuring of NRDWP to make it more competitive,

outcome based and result oriented. Ministry has also launched Swajal Programme which will increase the coverage of piped water supply in rural areas.

(e) Yes, 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 scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for taking up schemes in water quality affected areas on priority.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with the recommendation of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government of India had released Rs. 1,000 crore in March 2016 for commissioning of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) and last mile connectivity of piped water supply schemes.

In addition, the Ministry had launched National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22.03.17 to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 arsenic / fluoride affected rural habitations in a span of 4 years, subject to availability of funds. As on 20.12.2018, Rs. 3690.34 Crore has been released to affected states under NWQSM.