

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3090
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 2018**

Safe Drinking Water in Schools

†3090. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide safe drinking water in all schools in the country by installing RO machines;
- (b) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. SATYA PAL SINGH)**

(a) to (c) There is no specific proposal for installing R.O. machines in all the schools of the country. However, the provision of safe and adequate drinking water facility in elementary Schools is mandatory under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. All States and UTs have been advised to ensure compliance of this provision of the RTE Act, 2009.

The Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education – Samagra Shiksha, which subsumes the erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). Samagra Shiksha effective from 1st April, 2018 supports States and UTs for strengthening of existing government schools, and for creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities including drinking water facility, based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) and proposals received from respective State/UT.

Under erstwhile SSA till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha effective from 2018-19, till 30.09.2018, 2.40 lakh drinking water facilities in Government elementary schools were sanctioned, out of which States and UTs have reported provision of 2.33 lakh drinking water facilities. Under erstwhile RMSA till 2017-18 and Samagra Shiksha from 2018-19, till 30.09.2018, 11,892 drinking water facilities in Government secondary/senior secondary schools were sanctioned, out of which States and UTs have reported provision of 10,059 drinking water facilities.

Infrastructure facilities including safe drinking water facilities in Government schools are also provided in convergence with other schemes/programmes of Central and State Governments. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides technical and financial assistance to States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for supplementing their efforts in providing safe drinking water supply in rural areas including schools. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has advised the Panchayati Raj Departments of all States in March, 2016 to include inter alia the provision of drinking water supply systems in schools and regular repair of drinking water systems in schools, while preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plans for using Fourteenth Finance Commission grants.
