

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 844  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.04.2016

**Drinking Water Scarcity**

**844. SHRI LALLU SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether there is heavy scarcity of drinking water in the country due to drought and people of many States are forced to bring water from far away places and animals are dying due to non-availability of drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of levels at which the rain-water is being harvested for using it for drinking purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps to store the rain-water and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the amount of funds released by the Government during each of the last three years to store rain-water to deal with the crisis of drinking water?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)**

- (a) The scarcity of drinking water in the country has occurred due to less rainfall in many parts of the country during the last two years which has resulted in the depletion of ground water table due to inadequate recharge. As most of rural drinking water supply schemes are based on groundwater source, this has resulted in failure of many such schemes. In addition, inadequate rain has resulted in depletion of water in major storage reservoirs in the country and this has compounded the problem of water availability for drinking purpose.

The Ministry takes immediate steps to tackle the drought like situation and scarcity of drinking water arising out of deficient monsoon if there is a forecast regarding the same as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

As per the Census 2011, 22.1% of the rural households have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 500 meters in rural areas. The percentage will increase in case of drought like situations.

- (b) & (c) Ministry has been asking all the State Governments to make optimum use of available water while implementing rural drinking water supply schemes. To increase the

availability of drinking water, the Ministry has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) fund is provided on 90:10 basis for North East and Himalayan States and on 60:40 basis for other States. As per information provided by States on the Ministry's online portal Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), a total of 8600 sustainability structures have been created by States which includes Pits and Trenches, Check Dams, Percolation Tanks, Point Source Recharging Structures, Dug Wells/Injection Skimming Wells, Oranies / Village Ponds / Traditional Water Bodies, Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting Structures etc. Moreover Hydro Geomorphological Maps (HGM) are being used for accurately locating new drinking water sources in the field. Government of India is taking steps to cover rural habitations and households with adequate safe drinking water supply on a continuous basis. The focus of the Ministry now is to move towards rural water supply schemes based on safe & perennial surface water sources to ensure long term sustainability of source and drinking water security in the event of crisis including drought.

- (d) This Ministry does not release funds to States / UTs separately for rain water harvesting. However, under NRDWP, States may utilize up to 10% of the funds for sustainability of drinking water sources which inter-alia includes rain water harvesting.