

# Supply of Drinking Water through Taps to the Villages

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Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in India as on the 31st December, 1977 which are being supplied with clean drinking water through taps; and which are without supply of drinking water through public health system:

(b) where there is any proposal under Government's consideration to intensify the implementation of the scheme of supplying drinking water to the remaining villages; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what funds have been earmarked for the purpose for the Sixth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c) The villages in the country can be broken up in the following categories for the purpose of availability of water supply:—

Nos.

- (i) Problem villages located in hilly or desert region where nearest water sources are either 1.6 K.M. away or 30 metres deep where sources are exposed to endemic cholera and guinea worm infestation; where sources contain excessive chlorides, fluorides, iron etc. 15300
- (ii) Villages having inadequate and unprotected water sources 185000

- (iii) Villages having adequate but unprotected water sources 214000
- (iv) Villages having adequate and protected water sources 23000

In the Fifth Five Year Plan emphasis was laid to cover the category (i) villages mentioned above (i.e. problem villages) under the Minimum Needs Programme of the State sector. It is estimated that 40,000 of these villages had been provided with safe drinking water upto 31st March, 1977.

Government of India launched a new programme known as Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme in 1977-78 in order to accelerate the pace of provision of safe drinking water in the problem villages. It is estimated that during 1977-78, 6509 problem villages had been provided with safe drinking water under this programme with the Central Grants assistance of Rs. 38.20 crores released to the States/Union Territories Governments during that year. In addition, it is estimated that 12310 problem villages had been covered by the States/Union Territories Governments during 1977-78 with the funds available in their own Plans under the Minimum Needs Programme. It is proposed to cover all the problem villages with safe drinking water within 5 to 6 years.

A provision of Rs. 60 crores has been made in the Central Budget during the current year for the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

This is, in addition to the provision of Rs. 106 crores made in the Minimum Needs Programme in the State sector.

Draft Sixth Plan also provides 675 crores under the Minimum Needs Programme in State sector for providing safe drinking water to the problem villages