

**WHO guidelines on drinking water**

778. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has circulated the specifications/guidelines for drinking water;
- (b) if so, whether Government has accepted the said specifications/guidelines of WHO on drinking water;
- (c) whether Government had sought more clarifications from the WHO in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The World Health Organization (WHO) has published [Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality]. The Guidelines are addressed primarily to assist the water and health regulators; policy makers and their advisors, to assist in the development of national standards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) taking assistance among others, from the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, has prescribed the requirements for the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes in its standard IS-10500. The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines indicates that water is defined as safe, if the chemical and bacteriological parameters are within the standards as prescribed in BIS Standard IS-10500.

**Hand pumps installed under NRDWP**

779. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of hand pumps installed in Gujarat particularly in the districts of Patan and Banaskantha under the National Rural Drinking Water Project (NRDWP) during the period 2009-10 and 2010-11, district-wise; and
- (b) the total amount sanctioned, released and incurred by Government for above purpose during this period?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) State Government of Gujarat has reported that no hand pump has been installed under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). However, under the State Programme during 2009-10 and 2010-11, 7,512 and 18,223 hand pumps were installed respectively. The District-wise details of installation of hand Dumps in the districts of Gujarat including Patan and Banaskantha are given in the Statement (See below).