

**The House reassembled at twelve of the clock,
The Vice Chairman (Prof. P.J. Kurien) in the chair.**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

†441. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the demand and availability of clean drinking water in proportion to the population of the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that only four percent of the water available in the country is fit for drinking whereas the consumption of drinking water is more in comparison to the population;
- (c) if so, whether Government has formulated a policy to provide clean drinking water to all;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) by when clean drinking water would be available to all the people of country?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) As per the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) guidelines, 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water is identified as the requirement for humans to meet basic minimum needs. Out of this 3 lpcd is for drinking purpose. As reported by States on the online monitoring system of the Ministry 81.5% of the rural population in the country have access to safe and adequate drinking water.

(b) Out of the total water resources available in the country, it is estimated that about 5% is used for drinking and other domestic purposes. Out of the total drinking water sources in the rural areas of the country, 5.46% are reported as contaminated with excess chemical and bacteriological contamination.

(c) and (d) Water is a state subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers the centrally sponsored scheme, the National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) for providing technical and financial assistance to the States, to supplement their efforts to provide adequate and safe drinking water in rural areas. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, approve and implement rural drinking water supply projects under NRDWP. As per the National Water Policy drinking water is given priority over other competing demands like agriculture and industry in the use of available water resources.

(e) The Government of India is taking steps to cover the remaining partially covered and quality affected habitations with safe and adequate drinking water supply on a continuous basis.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.