

to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes under NRDWP. Rural Water Supply Schemes are approved by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee. The allocation provided under NRDWP is distributed State-wise and released to the State Water and Sanitation Missions (SWSM) in the States from where the Missions release funds to the various implementing agencies implementing rural water supply schemes in the State, which may include Gram Panchayats.

20% of NRDWP fund is allocated for tackling water quality problems to enable rural communities to have access to potable water. Further, 42% of NRDWP funds at the State level can be utilised for Coverage . However, States have been given the flexibility to use funds under Coverage for tackling Water quality and *vice versa*. These funds can be utilized for implementing schemes for purification of water to remove chemical and biological contaminants.

(c) For optimum use of funds under NRDWP, the State Governments are required to prepare an Annual Action Plan to implement various components and activities of the NRDWP. They have to mark the targeted habitations and provided details of works, schemes and activities in the on-line Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). Coverage and progress data are also entered in the on-line IMIS. 19 formats have been developed for monitoring all aspects of implementation of the Programme and these are regularly monitored. Further, Senior Officers/Area Officers/Technical Officers tour the State to assess the implementation of the Programme. The Ministry also conducts meetings of the Secretaries in charge of rural water supply, regional review meetings, video-conferencing, etc. through which implementation of NRDWP is monitored.

(d) The amount allocated and released to Gujarat under NRDWP during the last three years is a under:

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Amount	
	Allocation	Release
2008-09	311.44	369.44
2009-10	482.75	482.75
2010-11	542.67	609.10

Announcement of Shale Gas Exploration Policy

*20. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the announcement of the Shale Gas exploration policy, which was to be made by 2011, stands further postponed;

- (b) if so, the expected date for the announcement of the policy;
- (c) the steps being taken to evolve a Shale Gas exploration policy;
- (d) whether Shale Gas exploration permits/licenses can be granted under an open acreage policy; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Considering the importance and potential of alternate source of oil and gas, Government has initiated steps for identification of prospective areas and assessment of Shale Gas resources in the country as well as to formulate a policy on Shale Gas. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between India and US Government on Shale Gas Resources in November, 2010 during the visit of the President of the United States of America (USA) to India. Under the MoU, both the countries would cooperate in the following areas of Shale Gas development:

- Shale Gas Resource assessment in India.
- Technical studies on Shale Gas exploration in India.
- Share best practices on establishing a regulatory framework and safeguard measures for the sustainable development of Shale Gas.
- Promoting sustainable domestic and foreign investment in Shale Gas development.

Accordingly, United States Geological Survey (USGS) carried out Shale Gas resource assessment in 3 Indian basins (KG, Cauvery and Cambay) in January, 2012. Further, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has assigned Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL), Ranchi with the task of identification of areas and assessment of Shale Gas potential in Damodar and Sohagpur sedimentary basins.

Based on the findings of these studies on the potential of resources, the policy on Shale Gas is to be finalized after incorporating views of the concerned Ministries/Departments. Therefore, the announcement of Shale Gas Policy will depend on completion of the consultation process with all the concerned authorities, including environmental safeguards required to be put in place under the regulatory regime for Shale Gas exploration and production. The Shale Gas Policy is proposed to be announced tentatively by 31-03-2013.

(d) and (e) Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) is related to exploration of oil and gas resources wherein oil and gas acreages will be available round the year instead of cyclic bidding rounds floated under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Presence of commercially exploitable Shale Gas resources in the sedimentary basins of the country is under the process of identification. The modalities for offer

of Shale Gas blocks will be guided by the Shale Gas Policy, once approved by the Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Sanitation Facilities in the Country

1. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 60 per cent of population is forced to defecate in the open due to absence of toilet facilities in the country as per the recent report of a Government panel;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reason for such a pathetic condition and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the details of toilets constructed under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in the country during 2011 and 2012, so far, State-wise; and

(e) the details of funds allocated and utilized for construction of toilets during the last three years and the current financial year, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no information available regarding the report of said Government panel. However, Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to facilitate States to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main objective of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. TSC is a demand driven project based programme taking district as a unit covering total rural population of the district not having sanitation facilities. TSC, at present, is being implemented in 607 rural districts of the country. The sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country was 21.9% as per census 2001. With the effective implementation of TSC, the sanitation coverage in rural areas of the country against project objectives has reached 67% as of February, 2012 as per progress reported by the States through online monitoring system maintained by the Ministry.

(d) The details of toilets constructed under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) in the country during 2011 and 2012, so far, State-wise is given in Statement-I (See below).

(e) As TSC is a demand driven project based programme, there are no annual allocations made to the States. The details of funds utilized under TSC during the last three years and the current financial year, so far, State-wise is given in Statement-II.