

Setting up of new drinking water supply plants

†10. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people of different States are not getting potable water due to which they are facing a lot of hardships;
- (b) whether various State Governments have failed to provide potable water;
- (c) whether, in view of the consistently rising demand of potable water, Government has increased the number of drinking water supply plants or set up new drinking water supply plants, and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether owing to the said problem, people are compelled to drink contaminated water; and
- (e) if so, by when Government would be able to provide potable water to all?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (e) Due to various challenges being faced in drinking water sector like over exploitation of ground water, depletion of ground water table, contamination of ground and surface water bodies, non availability of safe surface water in the vicinity etc., about 5.3% of rural population are having problems with quality of drinking water available to them, as on 01.04.2014.

Though, drinking water is a State Subject, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India support the State Government Departments dealing with rural water supply technically and financially through the Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, up to 67% of the funds provided to them could be utilized for coverage/tackling water quality problems.

The policy of the Government of India is to provide piped water supply in each rural habitation in the country. Some of the large water supply projects which have safe drinking water source at a long distance would take 3 to 4 years, or even more for completion of the project.

Since the rural population could not be put to risk of drinking contaminated water, especially toxic/harmful substances like arsenic, fluoride, heavy metals, toxic elements, pesticides and fertilizers, several States are setting up reverse osmosis basis water purification plants like Punjab (1824 nos.), Rajasthan (640 nos.), Karnataka (687 nos.). In Andhra Pradesh State, R.O plants have also been established by the Gram Panchayats themselves in many areas.

The vision of the Ministry is to provide potable drinking water to all rural population in adequate quantity by the year 2022.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.