Drinking water facilities in rural schools

†829. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to provide drinking water facilities in rural schools;

(b) whether any target had been fixed to provide drinking water in these schools during the last Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) whether prescribed targets could not be achieved in many States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides technical and financial assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for supplementing their efforts in providing drinking water supply in rural areas including schools. The assistance under the programme include provision of drinking water supply in schools which were constructed prior to 2007. Further for schools constructed thereafter under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the facility of drinking water is provided to the vicinity of the school premises. Under NRDWP, though funds are not separately earmarked for the purpose, States/UTs can provide drinking water supply facilities to schools by utilizing NRDWP (Coverage) funds released to them.

(b) to (d) As per the District Information System for Education (DISE) report of 2014-15, 98.43% schools in the country have drinking water supply. Drinking water schemes/projects prepared by the States do not come to the Central Government for approval. The States have a State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC) which approves the rural drinking water supply projects and monitors them. Moreover, in compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 3.10.2012 to provide safe drinking water, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had written to Chief Secretaries of all States followed by reminders to review the position and give instructions to the officials concerned to comply with the Court's directions.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.