

drinking water free of chemical as well as bacteriological contaminants, the key difference between the two being the costs involved in purification of water and the level of purification achieved. The Government however has not made any detailed study in this regard.

Achievement of NRDWP

*79. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) has been able to reduce the disparity of water availability in urban and rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir.

Through National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and its erstwhile scheme Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), Central Government assists State Governments to improve the facility of drinking water, which is a State subject, with technical and financial assistance.

As per the census, availability of drinking water within the premises in rural areas has increased by 6.3% compared to 5.8% increase in the urban areas from 2001 to 2011. Similarly during the same period, availability of drinking water through tap in rural areas has increased by 6.5% compared to 2% increase in the urban areas. This data indicates that the improvement in these parameters is more in rural areas compared to urban areas thus reducing the disparity in this respect.

However, the norm for drinking water in urban areas ranges from 100 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to 150 lpcd. As against this, the norm for water supply in rural areas is 40 lpcd. Once this norm is achieved, the States are advised to go for 55 lpcd by the end of Twelfth Five Year Plan and subsequently to 70 lpcd by the year 2022. Availability of drinking water in rural areas (as per present norm of 40 lpcd) has increased from 70.11% (as on 31.03.2011) to 76.71% (as on 31.03.2016). This shows the increase in the availability of drinking water in rural areas, thus reducing the disparity between rural and urban areas.