

(c) whether Government would consider tying up with NGOs who are into providing safe drinking water to people in rural and remote areas, for speeding up the process of providing safe drinking water where it is not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) Rural Water Supply is a State Subject. However, under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides financial and technical assistance to State Governments for rural drinking water supply. States Governments are competent to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. This Ministry maintains data for drinking water supply in terms of habitations and not village population wise. Further, as per the Census 2011, 22.1% of the rural households have to fetch drinking water from a distance of more than 500 meters in rural areas.

(b) The Ministry has prepared a strategic plan to provide safe drinking water to 90% of the rural population of the country through piped water supply schemes by the year 2022 subject to availability of funds. States have been advised to prioritize coverage of all arsenic & fluoride affected rural habitations with surface water based piped water supply schemes as the permanent & sustainable solution. States have also been advised to set up Community Water Purification plants as a short-term measure to provide at least 8-10 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe water for drinking & cooking purpose in all remaining arsenic & fluoride affected rural habitations by March, 2017, subject to availability of funds.

(c) Under NRDWP, State Governments are vested with the power to plan, design, approve and implement rural drinking water supply schemes. This Ministry under NRDWP neither releases funds directly to any Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) nor there is such proposal under consideration of this Ministry.

Providing safe drinking water and sanitation facilities

714. SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many people in the country did not get safe drinking water in 2015 and how many of them in urban areas;

(b) what are the main reasons therefor;

(c) by when Government expects to overcome it;

(d) how many people did not have satisfactory sanitation facilities at the end of 2015; and

(e) how many of them would have to be provided it at Government expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) to (c) This Ministry maintains data in terms of rural habitations and not in terms of population. As per data entered by States on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of this Ministry, as on 20.07.2016, there are 17,14,528 rural habitations in the country, out of which 71,077 habitations are quality affected where drinking water is contaminated *i.e.* not potable with either one or more contaminants like arsenic, fluoride, iron, nitrate, salinity etc.

The main reasons for contamination are geogenic as majority of rural drinking water supply schemes are based on ground water.

Rural Water Supply is a State subject. The States have been vested with power to plan, design and execute the schemes to provide safe drinking water. However, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the State Governments for rural drinking water supply by providing technical & financial assistance through Central Sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). States are regularly asked to prioritise for coverage of quality affected habitations.

This Ministry has prepared a strategic plan to provide safe drinking water to 90% of the rural population of the country through piped water supply schemes by the year 2022 subject to availability of funds. States have been advised to prioritize coverage of all arsenic & fluoride affected habitations with surface water based piped water supply schemes as the permanent & sustainable solution. States have also been advised to set up Community Water Purification plants as a short-term measure to provide at least 8-10 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe water for drinking & cooking purpose in all remaining arsenic & fluoride affected rural habitations by March, 2017.

As reported by Ministry of Urban Development, as per census -2011, out of total 7,88,65,937 urban households, 4,89,04,343 urban households are getting tap water from treated source which is around 62 %. Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Ministry of Urban Development is providing financial assistance to around 500 major cities/ towns for water supply projects to achieve universal coverage in water supply.

(d) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), 92769864 (*i.e.* 51.05%) Households in rural areas did not have toilet as on 31.12.2015 as reported by States/UTs on online Monitoring System maintained by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(e) Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), 834 lakh toilets will be constructed through Government assistance.