

Accordingly, there is an increased focus on behaviour change and engagement of community for sustainable results. The term Open Defecation Free (ODF) has been defined nationally to have uniform standards. The guidelines for verifying ODF have also been issued. Capacity building of key stakeholders such as Collectors/CEO, Zilla Panchayats, Chairman, Zilla Panchayat has been carried out regularly. The monitoring has been strengthened to capture outputs (toilet construction) and also ODF status. Key Resource Centres (KRCs) have been roped in for capacity building and supporting the district administration.

Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the focus of the Ministry is to go for piped water supply schemes / bulk water supply schemes to be implemented by State Governments from perennial surface sources for long term sustainability. Further, 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. All States have been advised to install community water purification plants, in reported arsenic and fluoride affected habitations by March 2017. This is being done as a short term immediate measure for providing 8-10 LPCD (litre per capita per day) of safe water for drinking and cooking purpose only. In this regard, NITI Ayog has released ₹ 1000 crore as a one time Central assistance which also includes funds for last mile connectivity of piped water supply schemes in Rajasthan and West Bengal which are most affected by fluoride and arsenic contaminations in drinking water.

Contaminated drinking water in Eastern and North Eastern States

717. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that almost entire eastern and north-eastern States are suffering from high level of contaminated drinking water being extracted from ground water;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps towards supply of safe drinking water there; and
- (c) the proposals of Government to diffuse contamination and/or make treated supply of drinking water there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) to (c) As reported by the States into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, eastern States like West Bengal is suffering from excess arsenic, fluoride, salinity and iron in rural drinking water sources and Odisha is suffering from fluoride, iron, salinity and few habitations with excess nitrate in rural drinking water sources. Both Bihar and Jharkhand States are suffering from arsenic, fluoride and iron problems in rural drinking water sources with very few habitations suffering from nitrate and salinity problem. In the North-Eastern States, Assam is suffering from excess arsenic, fluoride and iron in rural drinking water sources. Tripura State is suffering with excess iron in large number of rural habitations while Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland have certain pockets of excess iron contamination in ground water based rural drinking water sources.

Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India assists the States in providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under this programme, upto 67% funds released to the States could be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems. As per the NRDWP guidelines, 10% of the total budget is allocated to North Eastern States. As per Strategy Plan of the Ministry, 90% of the rural population would be provided with safe drinking water by the year 2022 through surface water based piped water supply schemes, subject to availability of funds. However, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, the Government of India had released ₹ 800 crore in March' 2016 to provide community water purification plants in all remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations by March' 2017 so that 8-10 litres per person per day of safe drinking water is made available in these arsenic and fluoride affected habitations for drinking and cooking purposes, as large piped water supply schemes take a long gestation period for commissioning. Further, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, Government of India had also released ₹ 100 crore in March' 2016 as one time central assistance for last mile connectivity of commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes in arsenic affected habitations of West Bengal.

**Provisions of potable drinking water, sanitation
and toilet facilities in villages**

718. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed any target for the next three years, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 for the provisions of potable drinking water, sanitation and toilet facilities to villages across the country;