

Supply of drinking water to rural areas

1945. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA; Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drinking water supply problem exists in rural areas of the country and various schemes have failed to give desired result;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the schemes have not been properly implemented and have been poorly monitored in Assam and North Eastern States; and

(d) if so, details of remedial action taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) and (b) Under centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), this Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to States for improving coverage of safe drinking water in rural areas. Coverage of safe drinking water in rural areas is maintained in terms of Fully Covered habitations (*i.e.* getting more than 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd) safe drinking water), Partially Covered habitations (*i.e.* getting less than 40 lpcd safe drinking water) and Quality Affected habitations (*i.e.* containing chemical contaminant). As reported by States on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, 80.42% habitations are Fully Covered, 16.00% habitations are Partially Covered and 3.58% habitations where some source is contaminated with chemical contaminant. Various challenges like source sustainability, contaminated ground water are addressed by States with the technical and financial support of NRDWP and schemes such as NWQSM specifically focused on tackling quality issues in water.

(c) and (d) Rural drinking water supply being a State subject, it is for the State to plan, design, implement and execute drinking water supply schemes. However, online 'Integrated Management Information System (IMIS)' is in place to monitor the progress of the schemes and expenditure of the funds released to all States including Assam and North-Eastern States under NRDWP. From time to time, review meetings are also held with the Secretaries In-charge of rural water supply in the State for effective monitoring and execution of the schemes. In addition to this, as a long term solution, this Ministry has directed the States to cover the rural households with Piped Water Supply with sustainable safe source. Further, the Ministry has restructured National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP) to make it competitive, outcome based and result oriented which will help in attaining the ultimate goal.