

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Desertification is a land degradation process due to extreme climatic conditions, inappropriate management practices and socio-economic conditions, Studies conducted by Department of Space indicate the process of desertification in pockets of some States including Gujarat.

(c) A High Level Technical Committee in 1994-95, identified 55,424 square kilometers as arid area coverage in Gujarat for control of desertification under Desert Development Programme.

(d) According to Wastelands Atlas of India prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency Department of Space, the total extent of Saline area in Gujarat is 7637.34 square kilometers that also comprises coastal areas with ingress/inundation of seawater.

Projects in Rajasthan under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission

1672. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects taken up in the state of Rajasthan under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission for the year 2003-2004;

(b) the amount of funds allocated to the state under this scheme and the amount of funds transferred and utilized by the State till date;

(c) the present status of work done on these projects so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early or timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission under Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India extends financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts of taking up rural drinking water supply schemes under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers to plan, sanction, implement and execute individual rural drinking water supply schemes vest with State Governments. The

details of the drinking water schemes taken up by the States from the funds of ARWSP and the status of these schemes are not maintained at the Central Level. The details of funds allocated and released to Government of Rajasthan during 2003-2004 under allocation based components of ARWSP are as under :—

(Rs. in Lakh)

Component	Amount Allocated	Amount Released
ARWSP (Normal)	15852.00	9426.00
ARWSP(DDP)	6174.00	3087.00
Swajaldhara	2191.77	1095.50
Three Programmes of PM	2633.66	1316.83

Scheme for improvement of drinking water facilities in Uttar Pradesh

†1673. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved any scheme for improvement of drinking water facilities in the rural areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hand pumps that are likely to be installed alongwith the number of schools and conventional source which are likely to be included in these schemes; and

(d) by when these schemes are targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supplement the efforts of State Governments for improvement of drinking water facilities in rural habitations by rendering financial assistance under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers to sanction, plan, implement and execute individual water supply schemes vest with State Governments: The details

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.