

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3065
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2003
DRINKING WATER PROBLEM
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested any measures to deal with the growing drinking water problem in the urban areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to resolve the problem of drinking water in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA)

(a)to(c): The 10th Plan Document of the Planning Commission envisages, inter alia, the measures indicated in the Annexure to be adopted by all urban local bodies with a view to optimizing the use of available water and conserving water sources. Although 'Water Supply' is a State subject, Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation is funding a Centrally sponsored Scheme known as Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) through subsidy to the extent of 50% of the project cost to cover water supply schemes in small towns with population less than 20,000 as per 1991 census to supplement the efforts of the State Governments and urban local bodies. Under AUWSP, Central share of Rs.573.34 crores for water supply schemes worth Rs.1237.01 crores in 944 towns has been released to the State Government till 17.12.2003 since inception of the Programme.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3065 FOR 23.12.2003.

THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY ALL URBAN LOCAL BODIES TO OPTIMIZE THE AVAILABLE WATER AND CONSERVE WATER SOURCES FOR BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ENVISAGED IN THE 10TH PLAN DOCUMENT OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

The leakage and unaccounted for water due to old and rusted pipes or poor maintenance of the system must be controlled and brought to minimum. Severe penalties should be levied on those found responsible for leakage and wastage of water.

Reuse of treated sewage must be given priority in view of the fact that water is going to become more scarce in the near future. With tertiary treatment, water from treated sewage can be used even for air conditioning, industrial cooling and other non-potable uses.

Use of potable water for purposes like washing of vehicles, maintenance of gardens etc. should be prohibited. Rain water harvesting should be implemented widely.

The Central Ground Water Board is engaged in techniques for artificial recharge of ground water which should be implemented where conditions are appropriate. Similarly, exploitation of ground water in urban areas must be constantly monitored in order to prevent drying up of this important source.

The water tariff should be fixed in such a way as to discourage excessive use of treated water. Water efficient systems like low volume flushing cisterns may be made mandatory so as to conserve water.