

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4406  
ANSWERED ON:19.05.2006  
RELAXATION IN NORMS UNDER SWAJALDHARA  
Ramadass Prof. M

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the guidelines of Swajaldhara have been amended to reduce proportion of cash contribution in the case of ST/SC habitations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to relax these norms for backward districts under Swajaldhara;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to extend the relaxation in condition of community contribution in DDP and hill areas also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A.NARENDRA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Swajaldhara Guidelines have been modified on 15.06.2006 as follows:

‘Para 5.3: The community contribution towards the capital cost of schemes could be in the form of cash / kind/ labour / land or combination of these. However, at least 50% of the community contribution will have to be in cash. In case of Scheduled Tribe Areas, and Scheduled Caste Habitations (where scheduled caste population is more than 50% of the total population), the community contribution could be in any form, with no stipulation for contribution in cash. In case community contribution is more than 10% of the scheme cost, the excess amount shall be taken into operation and maintenance fund.’

(c) One of the criterion for identification of backward districts is the extent of SC/ST population. Hence the relaxation is automatically given to districts that have a predominance of SC/ST and so are declared backward.

(d) & (e) No, Sir. Relaxation of cash component in the stipulated community contribution was extended to SC/ ST habitations based on their inability to pay in cash. No such economic criteria can be worked out for the total population of DDP and hill areas, unless they are also SC/ST habitations.