

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2609

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2006

SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER .

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

- (a) Whether as per the World Health Organization the minimum water consumption should be 50 liters a day per person to cover consumption and hygiene needs;
- (b) If so, the quantity of water per person per day available in the country at present;
- (c) Whether the Union Government was committed to provide safe drinking water to all rural habitations by the end of 2004;
- (d) If so, whether the above commitment has been fulfilled in all respects;
- (e) If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;
- (f) Whether this target is likely to be achieved fully during the remaining period of Tenth Plan;
- (g) If so, the details thereof indicating the progress achieved in this regard so far;
- (h) If not, the reasons therefor; and
- (i) The steps taken/to be taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations without any further delay?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government administers a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing drinking water facilities in rural areas. As per norms of ARWSP, the requirement of Drinking Water is 40 liters per capita per day

(lpcd). In addition, there is a provision of 30 lpcd for animals in hot and cold desert/ecosystems in Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas.

(c) to (e) It was envisaged in the Tenth Plan document to cover all rural habitations with drinking water supply by March, 2004. As a result of the efforts made, 96.13% of rural habitations were Fully Covered and 3.55% Partially Covered as on 01-04-2005. However 0.32% of the total habitations remained Not Covered. The coverage status is, however, dynamic and a habitation once made fully covered may slip back to Partially covered/Not Covered Status due to various factors like increase in population, sources going dry, system outlived its utility, etc.

(f) to

(i) Bharat Nirman has been conceived as a plan to build rural infrastructure in four year period (2005-06 to 2008-09). Rural Drinking Water is one of the components of Bharat Nirman aiming at coverage of all uncovered habitations (numbering 55067) and also to address the problem of slippage and water quality. During the first year of Bharat Nirman, 11597 Uncovered habitations are reported to have been covered. In addition, 76444 slipped back habitations and 4498 water quality-affected habitations are also reported to have been covered.