

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3579

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2006

LACK OF BASIC AMENITIES IN VILLAGES OF MAHARASHTRA .

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the complaints made to the Maharashtra Human Rights Commission for not providing basic amenities in the villages as reported in the daily Dainik Bhaskar, Nagpur dated July 19, 2006;
- (b) If so, the agency responsible for not providing basic amenities in the villages;
- (c) Whether any guidelines or special assistance through funds are likely to be issued by the Government for providing basic amenities in these villages; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) The newspaper report of Dainik Bhaskar, Nagpur dated July 19, 2006 refers to lack of basic amenities (including rural drinking water) in more than 70 tribal villages of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.
- (b) to (d) Rural drinking water being State subject, State Government is responsible for providing drinking water facilities in villages. Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the States in providing drinking water facilities in rural areas by providing financial assistance through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). For making inter-state allocation of funds under ARWSP, there is a laid down criteria, which takes into account different parameters Viz. rural population, geographical conditions, number of uncovered habitations and water quality status. Based on this criteria, an amount of Rs.446.03 crore has been allocated to Government of Maharashtra during 2006-07. State Government is competent to plan, sanction, implement and execute rural water supply projects from the said fund. There is no provision under ARWSP guidelines for any special assistance.