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STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
(1995-96)  
TENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS  
AND EMPLOYMENT  
RURAL WATER SUPPLY  
AND SANITATION

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

**TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
(1995-96)**

**(TENTH LOK SABHA)**

**MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND  
EMPLOYMENT**

**RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION**

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the  
Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development  
(10th Lok Sabha)]*



*Presented to Lok Sabha on 12 March, 1996  
Laid in Rajya Sabha on 12 March, 1996*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

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\*Conceded to be a Member of the Committee consequent on appointment as Minister in the Council of Ministers w.e.f. 11.06.1995.

## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (1995-96) having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-Fifth Report on the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (Tenth Lok Sabha) on "Rural Water Supply and Sanitation".

2. The Eleventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1994. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee considered and adopted this report at their sitting held on 8th March, 1996.

3. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (1995-96) of the Committee is given in Appendix III.

NEW DELHI;  
11 March, 1996

21 Phalgun, 1917 (Saka)

PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE,  
*Chairman,*  
*Standing Committee on*  
*Urban and Rural*  
*Development.*

## CHAPTER I

### REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Urban & Rural Development (1995-96) deals with the action taken by the Government on recommendations contained in their Eleventh Report on 'Rural Water Supply and Sanitation' which was presented to Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 1994.

2. Action Taken notes have been received from Government in respect of all the 36 recommendations which have been categorised as follows:—

(i) Recommendations/observations, that have been accepted by the Government:

Sl. Nos. 2.9, 3.6, 4.3, 5.6, 6.3, 7.7, to 7.9, 8.2, 8.4, to 8.6, 9.5, 13.8, 14.4, 15.3 & 15.4, 17.3 & 17.4, 18.1 to 18.8.

(ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:

Nil

(iii) Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Sl. Nos. 7.5, 7.6, 9.4, 13.6, 13.7, 14.3 and 16.3.

(iv) Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited:

6.4 and 7.4.

3. The Committee require that final replies in respect of the recommendations for which only interim replies have been given by the Government should be furnished to the committee within three months of the presentation of this report.

4. The Committee will now deal with Action Taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

#### *A. Funds for Maintenance Purpose*

##### **Recommendations (Para 6.4)**

5. The Committee had recommended that for the effective maintenance of water sources and their necessary infrastructure in rural areas, adequate funds should be made available to the panchayats by the State Governments. Furthermore, the Central Government should issue uniform guidelines to the State Governments for giving adequate powers to the Panchayats at the local level for maintenance purpose, in order to avoid red-tapism.

6. The Ministry in their reply stated that the recommendations of the

Committee have been communicated to the States/UTs for implementation and necessary follow up action. As regards providing adequate funds for maintenance, they have stated that they had proposed to enhance the provision for operation and maintenance of water supply scheme both through plan and non-plan funds and contribution by the beneficiaries.

7. The Committee note that although the Government have circulated the recommendation of the Committee to States/UTs for effective maintenance of water sources, yet no action has been taken in respect of the recommendation of the Committee to formulate uniform guidelines for giving adequate power to the Panchayats at the local level for maintenance purpose. They would like to be apprised of the guidelines formulated in this regard and action taken thereon.

*B. Over-exploitation of ground water*

**Recommendation (Para 7.4)**

8. The Committee had observed that Government had not been able to utilise the available ground water in some areas like in the State of Orissa and Bihar even after passing of four decades of Independence. Further reverse trend had been witnessed in some areas where the Government relied on ground-water for providing short term relief, but, the ground water levels are rapidly declining leading to severe water crisis in many of the States. Such over-exploitation of sub-soil water coupled with massive deforestation can cause irreversible damage to water beds which are not being replenished due to soil erosion.

9. The Government in the action taken notes stated that the recommendation of the Committee have been forwarded to States/UTs. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the Department of Wastelands Development for appropriate action. Under the Sub-Mission on Scientific Source Finding Conservation of Water and Recharge of Aquifers, Central assistance is provided to the States for conservation of water and recharge of aquifers, water harvesting structures etc. Further they have stated that the States have been requested by the Ministry of Water Resources as well as Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to take immediate action on introduction of legislative measures to control over-exploitation of ground-water on the lines of the Act introduced by the State Government of Maharashtra and the Model Bill circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to the States for adoption by the States.

10. The Committee note that the Government have directed States to take action on the recommendation of the Committee with regard to check over exploitation of sub-soil. Further, States have been requested to take legislative measures on the lines of the Model Bill circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources. The Committee urge that they should be apprised about the main provisions enumerated in the Model Bill. They would also like to be informed about the latest position regarding the enactment of the Acts by respective States on the lines of the Model Bill.

**C. Guidelines to create an  
Integrated Development of Ground Water  
Recommendation (Paras 7.5 & 7.6)**

**Para 7.5**

11. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Rural Development should take steps in coordination with other related Departments for recharging the ground water by all possible means including traditional and conventional methods. Further they had recommended the framing of fresh guidelines on the national water policy with a view to create an integrated development of ground water as well as for an effective use of available surface-water for drinking purpose.

**Para 7.6**

12. The Committee also recommended that the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) should take all necessary steps like soil conservation, afforestation, prevention of losses of water through evaporation and other methods for harnessing rain water.

13. The Government in their replies stated that drinking water supply schemes in rural areas are being implemented by utilization of existing water resources (surface as well as ground-water). Over exploitation of ground water is proposed to be controlled through legislative measures and schemes for taking up watershed development, conservation of water, recharge of aquifers, etc. Contamination of water is being tackled under the activities of Sub-Missions under RGNDWM. They have stated that the recommendations of the Committee are being communicated to the States, CGWB & Department of Wastelands Development for appropriate action. With regard to recommendation at Sl. No. 7.6 the Ministry stated that steps have been taken towards soil conservation, afforestation, water harvesting structures, emphasis on revival of traditional systems and technologies.

14. The Committee are not satisfied with the way the Government have dealt with their recommendations. On the recommendation of the Committee to frame fresh guidelines to create an integrated development of ground water, the Government have furnished the catalogue of different Department/Ministries dealing with conservation of water, recharge of aquifers etc. They take serious view of the way the Ministry have passed their responsibilities to the other Ministries/Departments. The Committee are equally dismayed to note the reply furnished by the Government in respect of the recommendation of the Committee at Sl. No. 7.6. Their recommendation that Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission should take all steps like soil conservation, afforestation, prevention of loss of water through evaporation and other methods of harnessing rain water, the Ministry have simply stated that steps have been taken as stated earlier. The Committee feel that the Government have tried to sidetrack the issues

by furnishing evasive replies. It is needless to point out here that safe drinking water is the basic necessity of human life. Even after passing of more than four decades since the Independence, the Government could not fulfil this basic requirement. Hence, the Committee would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation and would await positive action by the Government in this respect.

*D. Maintenance and Repairs*

**Recommendation (Para 8.6)**

15. The Committee had recommended that the Ministry of Rural Development should put more emphasis on Research and Development Methodology to develop cost effective appropriate technologies for the identification of new sources of water, conveyance of water from the source, treatment of the contaminated water, ensuring proper distribution system, etc. as these are the major activities of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to be undertaken during the 8th Five Year Plan.

16. The Government in their reply have stated that guidelines have been issued for Research and Development with emphasis on scientific source finding, improvement of quality control of fluosris/removal of excess fluoride, arsenic etc. It has also been stated that the annual outlay for research and development has also been increased from year to year since 1994-95.

17. The Committee appreciate that the guidelines have been issued to States regarding emphasis on Research & Development with regard to improvement of quality, scientific source finding and control of fluosris/removal of excess fluoride, arsenic etc. and the annual outlay on R & D has been increased. The Committee urge that the copy of the guidelines should be furnished to them. Besides this, they would also like to be apprised about the data regarding enhanced annual outlay for research and development since 1994-95.

*E. The Problem of Contaminated Water Supply*

**Recommendation (Para 9.4)**

18. The Committee had observed that villages in the vicinity of some river or nala are found neglected with the result that these villagers use the contaminated water for drinking purpose and fall prey to several diseases. The Committee suggested that speedy steps should be taken to provide safe drinking water to such villages through pipes and handpumps. The Committee also suggested that the mission should make necessary arrangements for providing specialised training equipments as well as keep effective surveillance over the use of contaminated water by the rural people.

19. The Ministry in their reply stated that the guidelines for the implementation of rural water supply programme provide for first priority to coverage of not covered and partially covered (less than 10 lpcd)

habitations and those habitations affected with contamination due to excess chemicals like fluoride, arsenic, salinity, iron etc. No distinction is made between the habitations located near rivers/flowing surface water sources and others. It has been decided to cover all NC & PC (Not covered and Partially Covered) habitations and severally affected habitations with fluorosis and arsenic by 1997. They have further stated that adequate arrangements have been made for specialised training for operations, maintenance and treatment plants, equipments as well as to keep effective surveillance over quality of drinking water supply through a network of district level laboratories Ion meters, portable kits, etc.

20. The Committee note that the Government have not taken any action on their recommendation to priorities providing safe drinking water to such villages which are in the vicinity of rivers/nala. The Government have stated that no distinction is made between the habitations located near rivers/flowing surface water sources & others. The Committee feel that serious thought has not been given to the recommendation of the Committee. Hence, they reiterate their earlier recommendation and would like to be apprised about the action taken in this regard.

#### *F. Financial & Physical Achievement under CRSP & MNP*

##### **Recommendation (Para 13.6)**

21. The Committee had observed that population to be covered under Central Rural Sanitation Programme under 7th Plan was very small as compared to the enormous flow of money. They had recommended that Government should adopt a pragmatic approach to tackle this problem and to motivate the beneficiaries to help themselves and to support this programme for attaining better quality of life.

22. The Government in the action taken notes stated that during 7th Five Year Plan population to be covered was less than 3% as against the target of 25%. Yet it has been stated that the coverage was in proportion to the actual utilisation of the outlay under CRSP and State Sector MNP. It has also been stated that the programme guidelines were revised during 1993 with special emphasis on health education, awareness and earmarking of 10% of funds for motivating the beneficiaries to help themselves.

23. The Committee are not satisfied with the evasive reply furnished by the Government that the coverage with regard to Rural Sanitation Programme was in proportion to the actual utilisation of the outlay under CRSP and State Sector MNP. The Committee note that as per the data furnished by the Ministry the actual expenditure under CRSP during 7th Plan was Rs. 16.58 crores against the outlay of Rs. 4.20 crores. As such actual expenditure was 300% more than the outlay whereas the physical achievement has been stated to be as 3% against the target of 25%. They fail to understand how the Government could calculate that the achievement commensurate with the utilisation of outlay. Even during 1992-93, and 1993-94, the performance was not at all satisfactory. The Committee are

dismayed to note that Rural Sanitation has not been given adequate attention inspite its vital importance for attaining better quality of life. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and feel that earnest action is required in this regard by the Government as the country can not afford to wait more in order to live in a hygienic condition.

*G. Allocation for Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)*

**Recommendation (Para 13.7)**

24. The Committee had observed that during 1992-93 as far as financial allocation and the expenditure incurred under CRSP was concerned, the performance was poor. The physical achievement of target was only 10.81%. Similarly during 1993-94 the physical achievement was only 14.82% against the financial achievement of 54.17%. Keeping in view the poor performance during 1992-93 & 1993-94 the Committee strongly recommended that a serious thought should be given to the problem of rural sanitation and suitable ways and means should be explored through result oriented action plan to maximise the number of beneficiaries as it is one of the basic necessity of human life.

25. The Government in their reply stated that the physical targets achieved under CRSP and MNP combined in 1992-93 was 98.17%, 62.63% in 1993-94, 94.27% in 1994-95. They further stated that in order to achieve better results and to maximise the number of beneficiaries, it has been proposed to increase the outlay for CRSP in 1996-97 to atleast Rs. 300 crores, in addition to the likely achievement through private efforts based on alternate delivery system through sanitary marts and creation of health education and awareness under intensive IEC activities.

26. The Committee note that the Ministry in their reply have furnished the combined figures regarding achievement of physical targets under CRSP & MNP whereas the observation of the Committee related to the poor performance under CRSP which was 10.81% in 1992-93 and 14.82% during 1993-94. The Committee take a serious view of the fact that the Government have tried to mislead the Committee by putting forth ambiguous statements. They are constrained to note the shortfall in the percentage of physical achievement during 1992-93, 1993-94. Of equal concern is the poor performance during 1994-95 which is less than 50% up to 15th March, 1995. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the funds earmarked for a certain scheme should be spent fully. They reiterate their earlier recommendation strongly and would like to know from the Government the reasons for the poor achievement under CRSP.

*H. Construction of individual household latrines*

**Recommendation (No. 14.3)**

27. The Committee had observed that the coverage of household latrines is very small i.e. 10% to 12%. They recommended that a serious thought should be given to the problem of construction of individual household

latrines and that proper drainage-system should be linked with the construction of individual household latrines. Further, more funds should be provided for this programme.

28. In the action taken notes furnished to the Committee, the Government have stated that the recommendations of the Committee are being processed for appropriate follow-up action. Further the outlay for CRSP & MNP is proposed to be enhanced steeply in 1996-97 alongwith introduction of water supply and sanitation in all primary schools.

29. Pursuant to the recommendation of the Committee to give a serious view to the problem of construction of individual household latrines, the Ministry in their replies have simply stated that the recommendations are being processed for appropriate follow-up action. The Committee take serious note of the approach of the Government towards their recommendations. They would like to be apprised about the concrete follow-up action taken by the Government. Further they note that the outlay for CRSP and MNP is proposed to be enhanced steeply in 1996-97. The Committee should be apprised about the amount that has been proposed by the Ministry for CRSP & MNP 1996-97 separately.

#### *I. Priority to Sanitary Latrines for Women*

##### **Recommendation (Para No. 16.3)**

30. The Committee had recommended that top priority should be accorded to the construction of sanitary latrines for women in the Rural Sanitation Programme. Village Sanitary Complex exclusively for women should be constructed on a pilot basis where individual household latrines are not feasible.

31. The Ministry in their replies have stated that the guidelines for implementation of CRSP already stipulate that at least 10% of annual funds can be utilised for construction of exclusive complexes for women. However, most of the States are concentrating on construction of individual households latrines in the villages rather than complexes for women mainly due to the problem of operation and maintenance of such public latrines.

32. The Committee note that priority to village sanitary complexes for women was not being given by the States and the excuse furnished by them was the problem of operation and maintenance of such public latrines. They have taken a serious view of the fact that States are deviating from guidelines issued by the Centre. The Committee recommend that serious action should be taken against the defaulter States. They also urge that more funds should be provided for operation & maintenance of latrines.

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

#### Recommendation (Para No. 2.9)

The Committee feel that it is difficult for anyone to bring water from a distance of 1.6 km for a family consisting of 4-5 members besides bringing water for cattles. Keeping in mind the per capita per day consumption of drinking water *i.e.* 40 litres as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development one has to cover a lot of distance every day to fetch water. Broadly speaking the actual victims are women. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should give a serious thought to change this norm to reduce the distance of 1.6 Km to 0.5. km or so for supplying drinking water.

#### Reply of the Government

Guidelines for implementation of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) already provide that once the task of supplying safe drinking water within the existing norm of one source (hand pump or standpost) for every 250 persons within a distance of 1.6 km in the plains and 100 metres elevation difference in the hills is completed in a particular State, the liberal norm of supplying drinking water through hand pump or standpost for 150 persons within the distance of 0.5 km in the plains and 50 metres in the hills may be adopted. The need to change the existing norms is also proposed to be considered as one of the policy issues by the Steering Committee and the Working Group proposed to be adopted for the 9th Five Year Plan.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

#### Recommendation (Para No. 3.6)

The Committee note that despite giving top priority to the Rural Water Supply Programme under the Eighth Five Year Plan, Government have not been able to give due attention and the problem is not taken care of in its right perspective. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that Government should make sincere efforts in order to maximize the coverage of the Problem Villages.

#### Reply of the Government

The Government have taken a number of measures in order to maximise the coverage of problem villages and the habitations. These measures include increase in the outlay from year to year (Rs. 1110 crores in 1995-96

for RGNDWM as against the revised outlay of Rs. 810 crores in 1994-95 and the proposed outlay of Rs. 2500 crores in 1996-97), the delegation of powers to States to accord technical approval of schemes under ARWSP in order to cut out the delays in the technical approval process, emphasis on awareness of health education through information, education and communication techniques, training at grassroot level and also of professionals under National Human Resource Development, effective monitoring, research and development, completion of the work of safe drinking water supply to the problem villages identified in 1985 survey, and a time bound action plan for coverage of Not Covered (NC) and Partially Covered (PC) (with supply level of less than 10 litre per capita per day (lpcd)) habitations by 1997 i.e. the Golden Jubilee year of India's Independence.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 4.3)**

The Committee find that the data collected through comprehensive survey conducted in 1991 to identify problem villages both partially and fully for supplying drinking water has not been verified so far and no action plan has been chalked out in this regard. The Committee take a serious note that the survey conducted in 1991 has not been finalised even after the lapse of about three years. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should make concerted efforts to finalise an action plan without further delay in order to make available water supply to the most neglected hard core villages.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The survey conducted between 1991 to 1993 and validated in 1994 has since been finalised. The Ministry has decided to make concerted efforts, in coordination with the States/UTs which implement the programmes, to make available safe drinking water supply in accordance with the Annual Action plan to achieve the following works by 1997:—

- (a) all 140975 NC habitations.
- (b) all 61395 PC habitations with less than 10 lpcd.
- (c) 7995 habitations seriously affected with the problem of fluorosis and presently identified 427 habitations affected with arsenic.
- (d) water and sanitation facilities to be provided to all primary schools.
- (e) strengthening the infrastructure both at the Centre and States for effective planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme.

(f) effective operation and maintenance of water supply schemes through involvement of local community and Panchayati Raj Institutions.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 6.3)**

The Committee do not fully appreciate and agree with the reasons advanced by the representatives of the Ministry of Rural Development for not fulfilling the targets under the Scheme. The Committee would like to recommend that monitoring mechanism should be strengthened and intensified for ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted supply of water in rural areas to the village level for the better implementation of the schemes meant for the rural people.

**Reply of the Government**

The targets under the scheme were achieved in 1994-95 and the same are likely to be achieved in 1995-96 also. The monitoring mechanism is being strengthened and intensified both in the Centre and the States for ensuring smooth and uninterrupted supply of water and reporting of physical and financial progress. Management information system is being revamped by giving adequate assistance to the States for computerisation and use of NICNET facilities. Monitoring is also being undertaken through the schemes of Area Officers visiting the States and giving necessary feed back on the implementation of the programmes and appropriate corrective measures.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 7.7)**

The Committee observe that no separate information was being maintained with regard to the coverage of rural population through the Piped Water Supply Scheme. The access of rural population through the Piped Water Supply is very low. The decade began with the promise that potable water will be supplied to the entire country by the end of 1990. But the Committee note that the promise remained unfulfilled. Hence, the Committee desire the Ministry of Rural Development to make concerted efforts to provide water supply through pipes in the plain rural areas in general and the hilly regions in particular in order to ensure the supply of sufficient drinking water in those areas.

**Reply of the Government**

Drinking water supply schemes are taken up based on the availability of water resources, technical and economic viability, cost effectiveness, acceptability by the local people, quality of water etc. In the hilly regions, schemes are mostly based on piped water supply, spring tapped chambers,

through hand pumps and pipes in the plain rural areas. It is proposed to monitor and maintain separate information with regard to coverage of rural population through piped water supply schemes and other systems.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 7.8)**

The Committee also observe that the drinking water problem becomes more acute in summer. It has been observed by the Committee that water starved people resort to road blockades, attack Municipality Officers, stage angry protests to draw the attention of the authorities to their plight. The Committee take a serious note of it as this has been going on for decades without any tangible results. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommended that the Ministry should formulate an effective policy to tackle this serious problem.

**Reply of the Government**

It is true that during summer, in arid and semi-arid areas, drinking water problem becomes acute particularly where the schemes are based on hand pumps. However, steps are taken to augment the supply through temporary and permanent measures under Calamity Relief Fund and on-going plan programmes, arranging supply through tankers wherever absolutely essential and to take up schemes for conservation of water harvesting structures to ensure functioning of drinking water sources. States have been requested to take immediate action on the recommendations of the Committee to tackle the problem.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 7.9)**

Further, it has been observed by the Committee that the people residing in hilly and desert areas are facing more problems than that of the plain areas. Hence, the Committee recommend that all out efforts should be made and a comprehensive programme should be drawn up and implemented effectively at the earliest to provide sufficient safe drinking water supply in these areas.

**Reply of the Government**

In the desert areas schemes are based on 70 lpcd to cater to the requirement of drinking water of human being and cattle. In the hilly areas emphasis is given on piped water supply schemes. Based on the results of 1994 validated survey, a comprehensive programme has been drawn up for effective implementation to cover all NC and PC (0-10 lpcd) habitations with sufficient safe drinking water supply by 1997.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 8.2)**

The Committee recommend that the Ministry should ensure proper maintenance of public assets and adequate funds should be provided for this purpose. Further, it has been found that in coastal areas, the machinery used for supplying of water frequently goes out of order because of presence of salinity in the water. The Committee would like to recommend that a careful study should be made to provide appropriately designed and good qualitative machines in coastal areas for supplying of drinking water.

### **Reply of the Government**

The norms of expenditure were prescribed in 1986 for implementation by the States for appropriate operation and maintenance of water supply schemes. At present, 10% of ARWSP and 10% of MNP annual funds are allowed to be utilised for O&M of water supply schemes, the balance cost is to be met out of non-Plan funds of the States and contribution, wherever possible, by the people. As regards appropriately designed and good quality machines to be issued in coastal areas for supply of drinking water, the recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the States which implement the programme.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 8.4)**

The Committee would like to recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should evolve a formula/guidelines as per the requirement of the region for the maintenance of hand pumps and other necessary infrastructure for supplying water in each village. Some amount should be allocated for the maintenance of the ongoing schemes.

### **Reply of the Government**

Instructions were issued in December 1994 for appropriate operation and maintenance of water supply schemes by sharing the cost in the ratio of 30:30:25:15 by the Central Government, State Government, Panchayats and the beneficiaries. It has also been stipulated that ordinary repairs should be the responsibility of the Panchayats and Village Level Water Committees and major repairs to be carried out by the block level officers of the implementing departments. Ultimately, the responsibility for operation and maintenance of schemes should be that of the Panchayats. During the initial period of three years, grants will be given to the Panchayats at the existing rate for operation and maintenance. The Panchayats would have the powers to raise resources for meeting the cost of O & M. It is also proposed to change the existing system of 10% of annual MNP and ARWSP outlay to be used for operation and maintenance by introducing a separate component for determining the total requirement towards O&M as per the norms and thus sharing the total cost as 30:30:25:15 by the

Centre, State, Panchayats and the beneficiaries respectively. This would definitely result in improvement of the operation and maintenance of the schemes.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 8.5)**

The Committee also strongly recommend that women need to be associated with the community participation efforts since most of them have to carry water from long distances in rural areas. They have to spend lot of their time in water collection and transportation. Whenever there is a breakdown in water supply, it is the woman who suffers the most. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the decision on the coverage of a village or to treat a village as a problem village, the Mahila Members of Village Panchayats and Women groups should be involved and a reasonable number of women should be represented in the villages water monitoring Committee. The Mission should adhere to these basic things by providing information, education and training to women-mass in the rural areas.

#### **Reply of the Government**

Instructions already exist for community participation and consultation with the women representatives for selection of sites, certificates for completion of schemes and as members of water and sanitation Committee at the habitation, village, block and district levels to ensure their active participation in the programme at all stages. A copy of the instructions already issued is enclosed. Guidelines have also been issued for Information, Education, Communication and National Human Resource Development/training at grass root level. Copies of these guidelines are attached.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM. I dated 22.12.1995]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 8.6)**

As regards the maintenance and repairs of hand pumps and water pipes the Committee recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should put more emphasis on research and development methodology to develop cost effective appropriate technologies for the identification of new sources of water, conveyance of water from the source, treatment of the contaminated water, ensuring proper distribution system, etc. as these are the major activities of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission to be undertaken during the 8th Five Year Plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

Guidelines have also been issued for Research and Development with emphasis on scientific source finding, improvement of quality, control on fluorosis/removal of excess fluoride, arsenic etc. The annual outlay for research and development has also been increased from year to year since 1994-95.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995].

### **Comments of the Committee**

[Please see Paragraph No. 17 of Chapter I of the Report.]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 9.5)**

The Committee further recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should strengthen its monitoring mechanism and issue uniform guidelines to the State Governments/UTs requesting them to take necessary steps to save the existing sources of water from pollution and contamination throughout the country.

### **Reply of the Government**

The monitoring mechanism is being strengthened through the scheme of area officers, computerisation of the implementing departments in the States and monitoring of water quality. Based on the results of the survey relating to quality of drinking water in rural habitations, the State Governments/UTs have been requested to prepare projects to overcome the problem and to ensure supply of safe drinking water in the affected habitations through alternative safe sources and/or treatment plants.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995.]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 13.8)**

The Committee further recommend that, with the changing situation, the age old conventional methods of sanitary latrines should be replaced by the better modern sanitary equipments as per the suitability of local and regional conditions.

### **Reply of the Government**

A Committee was constituted to evolve technical options as per the suitability of local and regional conditions. The report of the Committee is expected shortly for preparation of technical guidelines to supplement the general guidelines of implementation of CRSP for the guidance of States/UTs and other implementing agencies including NGOs.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995.]

**Recommendation (Para No. 15.3)**

The Committee recommend that all dry latrines in the rural areas should be converted into pour flush or other suitable types of latrines.

**Reply of the Government**

The general guidelines of implementation of CRSP already provided for conversion of all dry latrines in the rural areas into two pit pour flush latrines.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 15.4)**

The Committee also recommend that this programme should be given top priority in view of its importance for the health and hygiene of millions of people living in rural areas as well as for environmental protection. Necessary steps should be taken up by the Ministry of Rural Development to achieve the physical targets at the earliest on the basis of whole village/bastis.

**Reply of the Government**

The guidelines provide for conversion of dry latrines in rural areas on top priority basis. Most of the States have informed that at present there are no dry latrines in rural areas. The matter is being pursued with the remaining states to ensure that such latrines, wherever still existing should be converted into sanitary latrines by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM.I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 17.3)**

The Committee appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry of Rural Development for encouraging more and more rural people to participate in the various sanitation programmes launched by the Government. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should provide adequate infrastructure for giving wide publicity to the basic necessities and importance of maintaining sanitation through T.V., Radio, Cinema, Newspapers and educational institutions for generating awareness among rural people. The programme for people's participation should be made more attractive so that the people may come forward for effective programmes pertaining to maintenance of better health and sanitation.

**Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee are being implemented as part of the IEC guidelines referred to earlier for effective implementation of the programme pertaining to maintenance of better health and sanitation.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 17.4)**

The Committee further recommend that sufficient funds should be made available to propagate the usefulness of hygienic conditions and create a sense of social responsibility towards the cleanliness among the villagers and strict vigilance should be maintained over the villages where the sanitation programme has not taken off satisfactorily.

**Reply of the Government**

In addition to 10% of the annual outlay earmarked for IEC activities under CRSP, Rs. 14 crores has been earmarked for 1995-96 for setting up of IEC cells in the States, publicity, printing etc. in order to propagate the usefulness of hygienic conditions and create a sense of social responsibility towards sanitation facilities and sanitary aspects of drinking water. It is proposed to enhance this fund to Rs. 20 crore in 1996-97.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 18.1)**

One of the objectives of the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is to make a provision for supply of drinking water to the people of the country. The Committee desire that the Government should take necessary steps to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all the villages to fulfill the objective.

**Reply of the Government**

As stated earlier, it has been decided to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all the NC and PC (less than 10 LPCD) habitations by 1997 through a time bound action plan in close consultation and coordination with the States and other implementing agencies.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 18.2)**

The Committee find that the Ministry of Rural Development have not clearly defined the concept of difficult villages and problem villages. Therefore, the Committee would like to recommend that the Ministry should give a better thought to make a clear cut distinction between the two. This would help the Government to implement the scheme in a right perspective..

### **Reply of the Government**

In order to overcome the definitional problem of difficult villages and problem villages, it has now been decided to implement the programme in terms of habitations categorised as not covered, partially covered (less than 10 LPCD and less than 10-40 LPCD) with the same order of priority, alongwith parallel priority to habitations effected with the quality problem of fluorosis/excess fluoride and arsenic.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 18.4)**

The Committee observe that different schemes are being implemented by the Government in the rural areas for the purpose. Every year one or the other scheme comes up and the ongoing projects are left unfinished. This leads to loss of huge expenditure and waste of infrastructure developed. The Committee, therefore, recommend that as far as possible duplication of schemes for the same purpose should be avoided and the ongoing projects should be reviewed before starting a new project for the same purpose.

### **Reply of the Government**

As recommended by the Committee, it is proposed to monitor the timely implementation of the schemes through intensive management information system and appropriate monitoring and evaluation. In the annual plan discussions and the yearly action plans, the first priority is given to provision of plan funds for completion of ongoing critical projects to maximise the benefit to the users and to provide barest minimum outlay for taking up new schemes after earmarking sufficient funds for the incomplete/ongoing schemes. Duplication of schemes is avoided at all costs. New schemes/projects are not allowed to be taken up where through effective operation and maintenance and rejuvenation, the existing schemes can be put to functional use. The recommendations of the Committee will also be kept in view in the forthcoming annual plan discussions for 1996-97.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 18.5)**

The Committee stress that the problem of Rural Sanitation should not be considered in an undimensional angle and limited in scope. There should be an integrated approach and co-operative effort by Central Government, State Governments, Local Bodies and the beneficiaries themselves to make it a success.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee have been communicated to the States for follow up action. An integrated approach is being adopted by appropriate coordination with the implementing agencies and among the various programmes like CRSP, MNP, Rural Housing, JRY, Indira Awaas Yojana etc. to maximise the benefits and the results.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 18.6)**

The Committee note that the schemes for Rural Sanitation launched by the Ministry of Rural Development have not been able to make sufficient impact on the rural life. A close monitoring is required in the case of ongoing projects. The Committee recommend that effective steps should be taken to strengthen the monitoring system to ensure proper implementation of the schemes and utilisation of funds to keep them on the right track. The Committee desire the Ministry of Rural Development to effectively discharge its role of proper management for the implementation of schemes in letter and spirit.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee is noted for strict compliance in coordination with the States/implementing agencies.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 18.7)**

The Committee are of the opinion that sanitation and health are complementary to each other. Improper disposal of industrial wastes, human excreta, solid and liquid wastes lead to unfavourable hazardous environmental conditions and lack of personal and food hygiene have been major factors responsible for many killer and epidemic diseases. Therefore, the Committee recommend that the rural sanitation programme should be implemented effectively. Besides, better sanitation would also help in maintaining a pollution free environment. Hence the Committee, desire that a model village in every district should be created in order to encourage people's participation and generate awareness among the rural people to have a better health and hygiene.

### **Reply of the Government**

The recommendation of the Committee is accepted for implementation on priority basis. The concept of model sanitation including the package of seven components of sanitation is being implemented in the villages recommended by the members of the Standing Committee. In addition, model sanitation activities have been taken up in a number of other

villages recommended by the states. As provided in the guidelines, the states will be requested to take up/formulate projects for a model village being taken up in every district.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 18.8)**

The Committee observe that the implementation of schemes and programmes pertaining to sanitation is far from satisfactory. Hence, there is a need to change the strategy to deal with these basic problems. Furthermore, the Committee recommend that the problems of rural water supply and sanitation should be dealt with in an integrated manner.

**Reply of the Government**

The recommendations of the Committee is accepted for implementation. The strategy for implementation of rural water supply and sanitation is constantly reviewed with a view to deal with the basic problems and to achieve better results. Since rural water supply and rural sanitation are being dealt with under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, an integrated approach is being adopted. The guidelines on NHRD, R&D, etc. are also directed towards this objective.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

**Recommendation (Para No. 5.6)**

The Committee recommend that to implement this programme in a right perspective the Ministry of Rural Development should have a comprehensive data pertaining to the new villages/new bastis with water quality problems. Villages where the sources are drying up and those villages which are facing problems of water conservations etc.

**Reply of the Government**

The survey results of 1994 on the status of drinking water supply in rural habitations contain comprehensive data pertaining to the new villages/new bastis with water quality problems. The broad statewise details are given at *Appendix-II*. The State Governments have been requested to identify the villages/habitations where the sources are drying up and those villages which are facing the problem of water conservation etc. Steps have been taken to provide safe drinking water in phases depending upon the annual outlay, to provide potable drinking water from alternative safe sources or treatment plants under the Sub-missions dealing with the quality problems. It is also proposed to take up schemes for water conservation, recharge of aquifers in those areas where sources are drying up and involve water conservation.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 14.4)**

So far as the cost for construction of latrines is concerned, the Committee recommend that the amount of assistance for construction of latrine should be revised by keeping in mind the cost escalation of materials.

### **Reply of the Government**

The proposal for increase in the unit cost of sanitary latrines in some of the states which have requested for such revision due to the cost escalation of materials/labour charges, is under consideration. The decision of the Government will be communicated to the concerned States and based on the revised unit cost, the amount of assistance from the Central Government will be regulated/revised. It may, however, be mentioned that ever since October 1993, all the states were permitted to meet, out of their MNP funds, the difference between the actual unit cost/contribution from the beneficiaries and the limits prescribed under the CRSP guidelines (Rs. 2500 as unit cost and Rs. 1,000 per latrine as central subsidy and 20% contribution by the user/beneficiary respectively).

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **Recommendation (Para No. 18.3)**

The Committee note that in coastal areas the water contains alkaline and other chemical elements which is not fit for domestic use. The Committee would like to recommend that the Government should adopt latest technologies for the treatment of such available water resources in order to provide safe drinking water to the rural people living in coastal areas.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Government accept the recommendation of the Committee. All the states have been permitted to provide potable drinking water through alternative safe sources from distance or by adopting latest technologies for the treatment of excess fluoride, excess iron, excess salinity and any other chemical element through treatment plants if no other techno-economic option is feasible. 75% of the cost of such approved projects is provided as central assistance under the Sub-mission Programme and the balance 25% has to be met by the states out of their MNP funds.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **CHAPTER III**

**RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT  
DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

**N I L**

## CHAPTER IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

#### Recommendation (Para No. 7.5)

The Committee note that rural India has been facing certain problems due to the non-utilisation of existing water resources in some areas, and over-exploitation of ground water or contamination of water due to population explosion and industrialization in some other areas. Therefore, the Committee strongly recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should take steps in coordination with other related Departments for recharging the ground water by all possible means including traditional and conventional methods. The need of the hour is to frame fresh guidelines on the national water policy with a view to create an integrated development of ground water as well as for an effective use of available surface water for drinking purpose.

#### Reply of the Government

Drinking water supply schemes in rural areas are being implemented by utilisation of existing water resources (surface as well as ground water). Over-exploitation of ground water is proposed to be controlled through legislative measures and schemes for taking up watershed development, conservation of water, recharge of aquifers etc. Contamination of water is being tackled under the activities of Sub-missions under RGNDWM. The recommendations of the Committee are also being communicated to the States, CGWB and Department of Wasteland Development for appropriate follow up action.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report.]

#### Recommendation (Para No. 7.6)

The Committee further recommend that the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission should take all necessary steps like soil conservation, afforestation, prevention of losses of water through evaporation and other methods for harnessing rain water.

### **Reply of the Government**

As stated earlier, steps have been taken towards soil conservation, afforestation, water harvesting structures, emphasis on revival of traditional systems and technologies.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### **Comments of the Committee**

[Please see Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report.]

#### **Recommendation (Para No. 9.4)**

The Committee note that the supply of drinking water is the major area of concern as rural water supply is concerned. It is found that villages in the vicinity of some river or nala are often neglected with the result that these villagers use the contaminated water for drinking purposes and fall prey to several diseases. The Committee suggest that speedy steps should be taken to provide safe drinking water to such village through pipes and handpumps. The Committee also suggest that the mission should make necessary arrangements for providing specialized training equipments as well as keep effective surveillance over the use of contaminated water by the rural people.

### **Reply of the Government**

The guidelines for implementation of rural water supply programme provide for first priority to coverage of not covered and partially covered (less than 10 lpcd) habitations and those habitations affected with contamination due to excess chemicals like fluoride, arsenic, salinity, iron etc. No distinction is made between the habitations located near rivers/ flowing surface water sources and others. It has been decided to cover all NC and PC habitations and severely affected habitations with fluorosis and arsenic by 1997. Adequate arrangements have been made for specialised training for operation and maintenance and treatment plants, equipments as well as to keep effective surveillance over quality of drinking water supply through a network of district level laboratories, Ion meters, portable kits, etc.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 20 of Chapter I of the Report.]

#### (Recommendation (Para No. 13.6)

The Committee are distressed to note that population to be covered under Central Rural sanitation programme under 7th Plan very small as compared to the enormous flow of money. Due to lack of adequate sanitation in rural areas the overall rural development programmes have got stuck. Therefore, the Committee would like to recommend that the Ministry of Rural Development should adopt a pragmatic approach to tackle this problem and to motivate the beneficiaries to help themselves and to support this programme for attaining better quality of life.

#### Reply of the Government

It is true that against the target of 25% of rural population to be covered with sanitation facilities during 7th Five Year Plan, the actual coverage was less than 3%. However, the coverage was in proportion to the actual utilisation of the outlay under CRSP and State Sector MNP. Based on the experience of implementation of the programme upto 1992, the programme guidelines were revised in 1993 with special emphasis on health education, awareness and earmarking of 10% of funds for motivating the beneficiaries to help themselves and to support this programme for attaining better quality of life. It is proposed to implement IEC activities in selected 65 districts in the country in 1995-96. A copy of the guidelines communicated to the states regarding IEC is enclosed.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM N. G. 11013/2/95-TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### Comments of the Committee

[Please see paragraph No. 23 of Chapter I of the Report.]

#### Recommendation (Para No. 13.7)

The Committee observe that an outlay of Rs. 60 crores has been earmarked for 1994-95 for rural sanitation. The Committee regret to note poor performance *vis-a-vis* expenditure incurred on the Programme during 1992-93 the physical targets achieved were only 10.81% during 1992-93. Similarly, during 1993-94 the utilisation of funds was to the tune of Rs. 16.25 crores against the plan outlay of Rs. 30 crores (December 1993) i.e., 54.17% while the physical achievements were of the order of 34644 units against the target of 233697 units i.e., only 14.82%. Keeping in view the poor performance during the last two financial years, the Committee strongly recommend that a serious thought should be given to the problem of rural sanitation and suitable ways and means should be explored through result oriented action plan to maximize the number of beneficiaries as it is one of the basic necessities of human life.

### Reply of the Government

The physical targets achieved under CRSP and MNP combined in 1992-93 was 98.17% (51,272 units under CRSP and 2,81,766 sanitary latrines under MNP against the target of 90,285 and 2,48,977 respectively), 62.63% in 1993-94 (1,34,190 units under CRSP and 1,77,779 units under MNP against the target of 2,11,943 and 2,86,132 under MNP respectively). The achievements in 1994-95 was 94.27% (5,91,354 units constructed against the targets 6,27,276 combined under MNP & CRSP). The target of 1995-96 has been increased to 757,559 sanitary latrines against which the actual achievements upto September 1995 was 1,63,583 units. The target for the year is likely to be achieved. In Order to achieve better results and to maximise the number of beneficiaries, it is proposed to increase the outlay for CRSP in 1996-97 to atleast Rs. 300 crores, in addition to the likely achievements through private efforts based on alternate delivery system through sanitary marts and creation of health education and awareness under intensive IEC activities.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 26 of Chapter I of the Report]

### Recommendation (Para No. 14.3)

The Committee observe that the coverage of construction of household latrines is very small. At present the coverage is only 10 to 12% and about 88 to 90% of it still remains to be tackled. Keeping in view the slow growth of construction of sanitary latrines under this programme, the concept of total sanitation is till a far cry. After taking into account the vast gap between the target and achievements and the poor performance by the Ministry, the Committee strongly recommend that a serious thought should be given to the problem of construction of individual household latrines. The Committee further recommend that proper drainage system should be linked with the construction and maintenane of sanitary latrines and more funds should be provided for this programme which is the basic unit of providing a greater impetus to rural sanitation programme because such facilities are required to be provided (to cover the entire rural population) on an enormous scale.

### Reply of the Government

The problem of rural sanitation programme has been looked into by the Committee of Secretaries headed by Secretary (Health) which has recommended a Technology Mission on Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene including Rural Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene as one of the submissions. The recommendations of the Committee are being processed for appropriate follow up action. Construction of drains is part of the Centrally Sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme alongwith

construction of individual household latrines. The outlay for CRSP and MNP is proposed to be enhanced steeply in 1996-97 alongwith introduction of water supply and sanitation in all primary schools. As regards coverage of the population other than below poverty line, this is proposed to be achieved through intensive health education, awareness, creation of demand, use of alternate delivery system of sanitary marts and self supporting programme of acquisition of sanitary latrines as a social prestige having regard to similar facilities being acquired by BPL people under government assisted programmes which will provide an impetus to the general public to acquire the facilities on their own.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 29 of Chapter I of the Report]

#### Recommendation (Para No. 16.3)

The Committee observe that Public Latrines have not proved to be very successful in the past. In view of the difficulties experienced by rural women in some areas, where individual household latrines are not feasible, village sanitary complexes exclusively for women could be constructed on a pilot basis. The Committee strongly recommend that this facility for women should be given top priority in the Rural Sanitation Programme.

#### Reply of the Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been communicated to the States for implementation. The guidelines for implementation of CRSP already stipulate that atleast 10% of annual funds can be utilised for construction of exclusive complexes for women. However, most of the States are concentrating on construction of individual household latrines in the villages rather than complexes for women mainly due to the problem of operation and maintenance of such public latrines and preference to individual household latrines.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Deptt. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM.I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 32 of Chapter I of the Report]

## CHAPTER V

### RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

#### Recommendation (Para No. 6.4)

The Committee also recommend that for the effective maintenance of water sources and their necessary infrastructures in rural areas adequate funds should be made available to the Panchayats by the State Governments. Furthermore, the Central Government should issue uniform guidelines to the State Government for giving adequate powers to the Panchayats at the local level for maintenance purpose, in order to avoid tapism.

#### Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee have been communicated to the States/UTs for implementation and necessary follow up action. Instructions (copy enclosed) have been issued on effective operation and maintenance of water supply schemes in rural areas, particularly relating to clean and aesthetic environment around hand pumps/standposts. It is also proposed to enhance the provision for operation and maintenance of water supply schemes both through Plan and Non-Plan funds and contribution by the beneficiaries.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95-TM. I, dated 22.12.1995]

#### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 7 Chapter I of the Report]

#### Recommendation (Para No. 7.4)

The Committee observe that even after passing of four decades of independence, Government have not been able to utilise the available ground water in some areas like in the States of Orissa and Bihar. The Committee further observe that the reverse trend has also been witnessed in some areas whereas the Government relied on ground water for providing short term relief, but, the ground water levels are rapidly declining leading to severe water crisis. It has adversely affected the wells in many States like UP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Such over exploitation of sub soil water coupled with massive deforestation can cause irreversible damage to water beds which are not being replenished due to soil erosion.

### Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the Committee has been communicated to the States/UTs, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the Department of Wasteland Development for appropriate action. Drinking water supply schemes in rural areas are based both on ground and surface water. Under the Sub-Mission on Scientific Source Finding, Conservation of Water and Recharge of Aquifers (now named as Sub-Mission on Sustainability), central assistance is provided to the States for conservation of water and recharge of aquifers, water harvesting structures etc. Ministry of Water Resources has also introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for this purpose. The States have been requested by the Ministry of Water Resources as well as Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment to take immediate action on introduction of legislative measures to control over-exploitation of ground water on the lines of the Act introduced by the State Govt. of Maharashtra and the Model Bill circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to the States for adoption by the States.

[Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment, (Dept. of Rural Development) OM No. G. 11013/2/95—TM.I dated 22.12.95]

#### Comments of the Committee

[Please see Paragraph No. 10 of Chapter I of the Report.]

NEW DELHI;

March 11, 1996

Phalgun 21, 1917 (Saka)

PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE,

*Chairman,*

*Standing Committee on  
Urban and Rural Development.*

## APPENDIX I

### MINUTES OF THE 28TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (1995-96) HELD ON 8TH MARCH, 1996

The Committee sat from 15.00 Hrs. to 16.30 Hrs.

#### PRESENT

Shri Prataprao B. Bhosale—Chairman

#### MEMBERS

##### *Lok Sabha*

2. Shri P. P. Kaliaperumal
3. Shri P. R. Kumaramangalam
4. Shri Maruti Deoram Shelke
5. Shri Surendra Pal Pathak
6. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava
7. Shri Ram Singh Kashwan
8. Shri Sudhir Giri

##### *Rajya Sabha*

9. Shri Nilotpal Basu
10. Shri Ramdeo Bhandari
11. Shri Shivprasad Chanpuria
12. Dr. B. B. Dutta
13. Shri B. K. Hariprasad
14. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra

#### SECRETARIAT

1. Smt. Roli Srivastava — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri G. R. Juncja — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Smt. Sudesh Luthra — *Assistant Director*

2. The Committee considered and adopted the following Draft Reports:

(i) Report on Action Taken by Government on recommendations contained in the 11th Report on Rural Water Supply & Sanitation;

(ii)                   \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*

(iii)                \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*           \*\*

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\* Sitting Proceedings related to other subjects has been kept separately.

3. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise the Reports and present the same to the Parliament.

*The Committee then adjourned*

**APPENDIX II**  
**STATEMENT TO RECOMMENDATION PARA NO. 5.6**

**ANNEXURE**

**STATEWISE DETAILS OF QUALITY PROBLEM AS REVEALED FROM THE SURVEY**

S. No.	State Name	Total Number of Habita- tions	WATER QUALITY HABITATIONS				
			Fluoride	Arsenic	Salinity	Iron	Total
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	67684	4853	0	3977	441	9276
2.	ARUNACHAL PR.	2446	—	—	—	—	—
3.	ASSAM	70069	—	—	—	—	—
4.	BIHAR	205438	12	—	—	—	12
5.	GOA	405	—	0	0	669	669
6.	GUJARAT	30269	2413	0	1072	0	3485
7.	HARYĀNA	6484	397	—	—	—	397
8.	HIMACHAL PR.	43781	738	0	106	450	1294
9.	J & K	7763	—	—	—	—	—
10.	KARNATAKA	56652	860	0	769	274	1903
11.	KERALA	9719	237	0	26	502	766
12.	M.P.	127083	201	0	87	2216	2503
13.	MAHARASHTRA	77124	39	—	—	—	39
14.	MANIPUR	2815	0	0	0	157	157
15.	MEGHALAYA	7876	33	0	0	1305	1338
16.	MIZORAM	919	0	0	0	52	52
17.	NAGALAND	1304	—	—	—	—	—
18.	ORISSA	74231	1138	0	304	42835	44277
19.	PUNJAB	12797	1113	0	5349	4861	11323
20.	RAJASTHAN	81773	14643	0	39623	240	54506
21.	SIKKIM	1679	—	—	—	—	—
22.	TAMILNADU	36615	527	0	0	604	1131
23.	TRIPURA	7412	—	—	—	—	—
24.	UTTAR PRADESH	274641	1072	0	4426	3720	9218
25.	WEST BENGAL	80377	21	427	—	—	448
26.	UTs	716	46	—	—	—	46
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1318699</b>	<b>28348</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>55739</b>	<b>58325</b>	<b>142839</b>

**APPENDIX III**  
**(Vide Para 3 of Introduction)**

**Analysis of the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development (10th Lok Sabha).**

<b>I. Total Number of Recommendations</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>II. Recommendations that have been accepted by Government</b> (Para Nos. 2.9, 3.6, 4.3, 5.6, 6.3, 7.7, to 7.9, 8.2, 8.4 to 8.6, 9.5, 13.8, 14.4, 15.3, 15.4, 17.3, 17.4, 18.1 to 18.8)	<b>27</b>
<b>Percentage to Total</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>III. Recommendations which the Committee do not, desire to pursue in view of the Government's Replies</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Percentage to Total</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee</b> (Para Nos. 7.5, 7.6, 9.4, 13.6, 13.7, 14.3 & 16.3)	<b>7</b>
<b>Percentage to Total</b>	<b>19.44</b>
<b>V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited</b> (Para Nos. 6.4 & 7.4)	<b>2</b>
<b>Percentage to Total</b>	<b>5.56</b>