

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(2013-2014)

50

FIFTEENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

*[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the
Fortieth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

FIFTIETH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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[Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]

Presented to Hon'ble Speaker on 04.01.2014

Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.02.2014

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 07.02.2014



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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CONTENTS

	Page No.
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2013-2014)	(ii)
INTRODUCTION	(iii)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government	14
CHAPTER III Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	30
CHAPTER IV Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee	31
CHAPTER V Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited	34

APPENDICES

I. Extracts of Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 17 December, 2013.....	37
II. Analysis of Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development	39

(ii)

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2013-2014)

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

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LOK SABHA

2. Shri Thangso Baite
3. Shri Pulin Bihari Baske
4. Dr. Ratna De (Nag)
5. Shri Premchand Guddu
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29. Shri C.P. Narayanan
30. Vacant*
31. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Meenakshi Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |
| 3. Shri Satish Kumar | - | Committee Assistant |

* Vacancy caused on account of demise of Shri Mohan Singh on 22.09.2013

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2013-2014) having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present the 50th Report on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 40th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

2. The 40th Report was presented to Lok Sabha/laid in Rajya Sabha on 30 April, 2013. Replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received on 02 August, 2013.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 17 December, 2013.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 40th Report of the Committee (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) is given in **Appendix-II**.

NEW DELHI;
17 December, 2013
26 Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)

SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (2013-14) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Fortieth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation for the year 2013-2014.

2. The Fortieth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 30.04.2013 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 19 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorised as follows: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Serial Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19.

Total:14

Chapter-II

- (ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of replies of the Government:

Serial No. NIL

Total:NIL

Chapter-III

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

Serial Nos. 8 and 16

Total:02

Chapter-IV

- (iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Serial Nos. 3, 7 and 10.

Total:03

Chapter-V

4. **The Committee desire that final replies in respect of recommendations for which only interim replies have been submitted by the Government included in Chapter V of this Report and replies to recommendations made in the Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.**

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

A. Coverage of Piped Water Supply

[Recommendation Serial No. 8 (Para No. 2.9)]

6. The Committee in aforesaid para of the Report had recommended as under:-

"The Committee are informed that the Ministry is preparing to roll out a World Bank assisted Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in four States i.e. Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, that have lagged behind the other States in providing piped water supply to the rural population. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 5,400 crore (US Dollar 1 billion) out of which Rs. 2,700 crore will be World Bank assistance and the remaining Rs. 2,700 crore will be funded from the Central and State resources. The Committee note that this will be a six year project and about 16,200 rural habitations are proposed to be benefited by this. The Committee are further apprised that based on its success, second phase in four more States will be rolled out. The Committee feel that six years time is too long to complete such an important project and desire the Ministry to review the time period of its completion. The Committee, therefore, desire to implement the project with utmost sincerity and complete it within two-three years time so that rural areas in these States, which are lagging behind in piped water supply, are benefitted."

7. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"The World Bank supported RWSS-LIS Project plans to cover 16,200 habitations in 33 districts of 4 States – Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Project is designed to bring about a combination of institutional changes, enhanced investments in infrastructure and capacity and transformation in policies and processes to achieve the Project objectives. The Project has therefore been designed with the following fundamental principles:

- (a) Decentralization
- (b) Community participation and demand responsiveness
- (c) District-wise approach
- (d) Enhanced accountability
- (e) Water Security for all, and
- (f) Convergence of water and sanitation measures

The Project has been planned to be completed in 6 years with the following approach due to reasons including:

1. The decentralized nature of the Project requires community mobilization. Extensive IEC/HRD activities are planned to mobilize the PRIs and beneficiaries and achieve better service delivery in the Project area.
2. The proposed Project envisages implementing water schemes through:
 - Single Village Schemes (SVS) which includes Single Habitation Schemes (SHS) and Single GP Schemes (Multiple Habitations),
 - Small Multi Village Schemes (multiple GPs- usually 3 to 4)
 - Large Multi Village Schemes (multiple GPs- usually more than 5)

The scheme cycle for each SVS is planned to be 12-18 months after the selection of GPS, including pre-planning, planning and implementation. Similarly, the schemes cycle for each MVS has been planned to be 24-33 months.
3. The Project plans to cover selected districts in the participating States – 7 in Assam, 10 in Bihar, 6 in Jharkhand and 10 in Uttar Pradesh. In view of existing limited capacity of the implementing authorities, it is not possible to implement many schemes in parallel in a district. Therefore, the implementation has been planned to be staggered in 3 batches.
4. The Project is planned to be implemented in 3 batches each of three years duration. The Project plans to implement majority of the projects during the first 2 batches. The details of each batch are as follows.
5. Batch I: FY 2013-14 to FY 15-16: In all the four States with 30% of infrastructure investments along with full scale capacity building and project management activities.

Batch II: FY 15-16 to FY 17-18: 35% of new schemes are planned to be implemented during this batch, along capacity building of associated PRIs. Capacity building and project management activities started in batch 1 will continue.

Batch III: FY 16-17 to FY 18-19: The remaining schemes are planned to be taken up in this batch along with capacity building and project management activities.
6. A rigorous M&E is planned for the Project and the lessons learnt from previous batches will be incorporated in the new schemes."

8. While noticing the time frame of six years of the World Bank Assisted Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project to be rolled out by the Ministry in four States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh which are lagging behind the other States in providing piped water supply, the Committee had recommended to implement the said project with utmost sincerity and complete it within 2-3 years instead of 6 years so that rural areas in these States are benefitted at the earliest.

The Ministry in their action taken reply furnished have cited various reasons for long duration of 6 years to complete the said project which mainly include decentralized nature of project requiring community mobilization, implementing water schemes through Single Village Schemes, Small Multi Village Schemes and Large Multi Village Schemes, implementing the project in 3 batches each of three years duration and limited capacity of implementing authorities due to which it is not possible to implement many schemes in parallel in a district etc., are not acceptable to the Committee. The Committee also find from the reply furnished by the Ministry that even after 6 years, the project will cover only selected districts in the participating States i.e. 7 in Assam, 10 in Bihar, 6 in Jharkhand and 10 in Uttar Pradesh. The Committee while reiterating their earlier recommendation, would like the Government to review the time frame of completion of the World Bank Assisted Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project to 2-3 years. The Committee expect the Government to implement the project with utmost sincerity and desire that the project should rather cover all districts of the participating States so that the rural population in these States is provided piped water supply at the earliest.

B. Functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

[Recommendation Serial No. 11 (Para No. 2.12)]

9. With regard to functioning of RO plants set up in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Committee recommended as under:-

"The Committee had sought the status of functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants set up in Andaman & Nicobar Islands through Zilla Panchayats. It was pointed out by the Committee during evidence that the data furnished by the Ministry in respect of functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants was inaccurate as the Committee themselves had inspected these Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants during their study visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands during February 2013. The said data was provided to the Ministry by the Directorate of RD, PRIs and Urban Local Bodies in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in this context, assured the Committee to send a two member Committee consisting officials of the Ministry to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands to visit the plants, consult local representatives including Member of Parliament, the members of the district and Zila Panchayats to get the figures verified in respect of functioning of RO plants set up there and submit a Report in this regard to the Committee. The Committee expect that information furnished to them is factual and accurate. They also desire the Ministry to take necessary action to have a factual Report on the status of functioning of R.O. Plants in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and submit the same to the Committee at the earliest."

10. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"Based on the advice of the Standing Committee, the Central Team constituted by the Ministry, visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands in April, 2013 and submitted its report with detailed performance of each RO Plant visited by the team. Requisite copies of this report have already been submitted by the Ministry to the Lok Sabha (Secretariat) both in Hindi and English versions. During the Standing Committee meeting held for North East States and Andaman and Nicobars Islands on 12.7.2013, the Hon'ble MP from A&N Islands also appreciated the facts brought out by the team in their report."

11. In view of inaccurate data furnished by the Ministry in respect of functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants in Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to take necessary action to submit a factual Report on the status of functioning of RO plants in A&N Islands to the Standing Committee. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated that a Central Team constituted by the Ministry for assessing the factual correctness of information provided by the UT Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on erection, commissioning and status of working of RO plants visited the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in April 2013 and submitted its Report with detailed performance of each RO plant visited by them.

The Committee while acknowledging the efforts made by the Ministry in furnishing factual and accurate information on the status of functioning of RO plants in UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands would like to be apprised of the further follow up action taken by them on the suggestions made by the Central Team in the said Report for improvement of drinking water availability in Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz. action suggested on non-functional RO plants, not keeping plants non-functional for more than 3-4 days, backwashing sand filter daily before RO plant operation and washing plant after operation, periodic cleaning of membrane systems, following agreement document signed between UT Administration and contractor for operating and maintaining the RO plants by the contractor for 3 years, maintaining a log book for every RO plant, carrying out routine water analysis once in 3 months and results thereof to be made available on site, avoiding use of RO technology in case TDS level of product water is below 500 mg/l, carrying out geo-physical studies for providing more number of

sustainable ring wells/skimming well sources and capacity building of at least one operator per RO plant, of AEE, EEs for understanding various membrane technologies, of ZP, APWD AE/EEs on understanding various water quality monitoring instrumentation and sampling of technologies for chemical and bacteriological quality of drinking water and pro-active role of the Ministry for proper co-ordination with the UT Administration of A&N Islands etc. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the follow up action taken by the Government in this regard.

C. Research & Development Projects

[Recommendation Serial No. 16 (Para No. 2.17)]

12. In the aforesaid para of the Original Report, the Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee find that in order to promote research and development in the area of water quality, the Ministry funds R & D projects to premier institutions, universities, autonomous organisations including NGOs/voluntary agencies. To consider R&D proposals and provide guidance, the Ministry has constituted a Research & Development Advisory Committee (R&DAC). The Committee note that against the target of 149 sanctioned projects, 127 projects have been completed. During the year 2012-13, a total of 5 R & D projects have been approved by the R & DAC. However, no R & D project is reported to be completed during 2011-12 and 2012-13. The reason adduced by the Ministry that since no R&D institution has furnished the necessary documents during these two years and therefore, no project could be completed sounds unconvincing as Government should have examined this aspect and would have taken corrective action to enable the timely completion of projects. The Committee find this situation highly unsatisfactory and would await further follow-up action by the Ministry in this regard."

13. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"In this regard, it is stated that the Ministry will follow up with R&D Institutions asking them to furnish required documents in order to ensure completion of R&D projects without further delay."

14. Finding non-completion of R&D projects during the last two years i.e. 2011-12 and 2012-13 due to non-furnishing of requisite documents by R&D Institutions highly unsatisfactory, the Committee had strongly recommended the Government to take corrective follow up action for timely completion of projects in order to promote research and development in the area of water quality. The Committee regret to note the casual manner in which the recommendation of the Committee is taken by the Ministry which is evident from the reply furnished by them which merely states that it will follow up with R&D Institutions asking them to furnish required documents in order to ensure completion of R&D projects without further delay. The Committee regret to find that the Ministry have not initiated any corrective action in this regard and are yet to follow up with the R&D Institutions. The Committee deplore the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry for not initiating any action so far in this regard. While reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee would like to be apprised of the present status of furnishing the necessary documents by R&D Institutes and follow-up action thereon. They would also like to be apprised of the specific steps taken by the Government in this regard so as to ensure that R&D projects are completed in time.

D. Sanitation Coverage in Rural Areas

[Recommendation Serial No. 17 (Para No. 2.18)]

15. The Committee had recommended as under:-

"The Committee note that as per progress reported by the State Governments through online monitoring system 71% of families in rural areas have sanitation facilities. However, as per Census 2011 data, sanitation coverage in rural India has reached 32.70% taking into consideration the increased population, which is an increase of 2.96 crore households as compared to earlier Census of 2001. In respect of wide variation found in the data, the Committee are informed that the Government of India has instructed the States/UTs to conduct fresh baseline survey to assess the actual situation at ground level and the said survey is reported to be going on. While expressing concern to note that rural habitations still do not have access to sanitation, the Committee would like to know the reasons for this wide variation in the data of Census 2011 and that reported by the State Governments. At the same time, the Committee would also like to be apprised of the findings of the fresh baseline survey being undertaken *inter alia* including when initiated, broad areas covered, time frame fixed for completion etc.

The Committee find that the goal of NBA (earlier Total Sanitation Coverage) is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. The new strategy is to transform rural India into 'Nirmal Bharat' by adopting community saturation approach. During 2012-13, as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 2500 crore at RE, the actual expenditure was Rs.2473.29 i.e. 86.07%. During 2013-14, the budgetary allocation BE is Rs. 4260 crore which indicates an increase of 70% over RE of 2012-13.

The Committee note that since NBA is a demand driven scheme, hence no annual targets are fixed. During 2012-13 (upto February 2013), 38,30,495 IHHL, 1342 sanitary complex, 60,457 school toilets and 24,422 Anganwadi Toilets were constructed. Whereas during 2011-12, 87,98,864 Individual household latrines, 2547 sanitary complex, 1,22,471 school toilets and 28409 Anganwadi Toilets were constructed. The Committee are constrained to note that the performance during 2012-13 was less than 50% as compared to 2011-12. The Committee are apprised that low achievement of targets was due to revision of NBA guidelines in July 2012 as State Governments took time to put in place the mechanism of implementation of new guidelines. The Committee are unable to understand that restructuring of any programme should reflect by way of improvement in the achievement, whereas in this case the performance during 2012-13 showed a declining trend.

The Committee are further apprised that during the year 2013-14, 100 lakh Individual household latrines, 70,000 school toilets and 80,000 Anganwadi toilets are proposed to be constructed and more emphasis will be given on Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). It is also proposed to develop 20,000 Gram Panchayats as Nirmal Grams during 2013-14. The Committee are informed that the construction of Individual toilets, schools toilets, Anganwadi toilets and Community Sanitary Complexes will be given priority to keep Government's vision of Nirmal Bharat by 2022 but due to reduction in allocation, target of solid and liquid waste management will not be achieved. The Committee desire the Ministry to make earnest and sincere efforts to achieve the targets set by fully

utilizing the budgetary allocation. The Committee while expressing concern that target of solid and liquid waste management will not be achieved would like the Ministry to approach the Ministry of Finance for higher allocation of funds.

The Committee find that major bottleneck faced in the attainment of objectives of NBA is that large sections of Indian population are not convinced of the need to stop open defecation because of lack of proper awareness about the problems associated with it and hence building toilets is often not a priority even for people who can afford to construct toilets and use it. The Committee are of the considered view that utmost priority should be given to bring about behavioral change in the rural populace because without creating awareness, demand to create the toilets from the rural communities is least expected. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take suitable policy measures to create awareness so that demand is created from communities to have toilets.

The Committee note that another difficulty being faced by State Governments/UTs in implementation of NBA is convergence with MGNREGS. The Committee feel that because of involvement of two different Departments which have to converge at local level, States are finding difficulties. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to have a dialogue with Ministry of Rural Development to resolve the difficulties faced in convergence with MGNREGS for smooth implementation of NBA."

16. The Ministry in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

"Efforts of the State Governments for promoting rural sanitation were supplemented from 1986 till 1999 by the Central Government under the Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and thereafter from 1999 under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Total sanitation Campaign (TSC) was launched as demand driven, community led programme with major IEC inputs to make sanitation a felt need of the people. Under TSC, financial assistance to BPLs was to be provided after construction and usage of the toilets.

As per study conducted by CMS and as reported by various States, the very low incentive, which prevailed under the Total Sanitation Campaign have played havoc with the programme. Many dysfunctional toilets and slip-backs have been attributed owing to this. The gap between the Census data 2011 and the figures reported by States in sanitation coverage through Integrated Management information System is primarily due to the low incentive /subsidy (Rs 625/-) given during major portion of the programme implementation (2001-2006).

MoDW&S have requested all States/UTs to carry out baseline survey in September'2012 broadly to cover sanitation status of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs)/School & Anganwadis toilets/ Community Sanitary Complexes, identified APL category as per modified provision of NBA and defunct toilets. No timeframe was fixed though all States were directed to complete the survey at the earliest preferably before March'13. As per entry made by States, as if now, online data for 151444 out of 253818 (59.67 %) GPs have been entered.

2. During 2012-13 as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 2500/- crore at RE, the actual expenditure was Rs. 2473.29 i.e. 98.93 % not 86.07 % as reported.

3. So far as declining trend after modification in guidelines is concerned it is submitted that Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 7.6.2012 had approved the continuation of the Rural Sanitation Programme in the 12th FYP from 1.4.2012. Accordingly, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA) Guidelines modified & issued in July, 2012. Under NBA, the provision of enhanced incentive for individual household latrine units was extended to identified categories of APL households along-with all BPL households w.e.f 1.4.2012. The NBA guidelines also envisaged convergence with MGNREGS for additional financial assistance. To implement the NBA-MGNREGS smoothly, MGNREGS guideline was revised by Ministry of Rural Development in September, 2012 and eventually States could frame their line of Action in Oct-Nov, 2012 only to implement the NBA programme.

4. So far as approaching to Ministry of Finance for higher allocation of funds is concerned it is submitted that this depends on utilization of funds by the States and the position will be assessed at the time of RE and if required Ministry of Finance will be requested for allocation of additional funds as suggested by the Committee.

5. As desired by the Committee that Ministry may take suitable policy measures to create awareness so that demand is created from communities to have toilets, in this regard it is submitted that Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is an important component of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) / Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA). Government of India has formulated and issued IEC Guidelines in order to provide a broad framework to the States for the implementation of IEC activities to increase awareness among rural people, generation of demand for sanitation facilities and creation of clean environment. The other major steps taken by the Government to improve IEC as part of TSC /NBA are as under:

- Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) formerly known as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), 15% of the total outlay of district projects has been earmarked for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.
- Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy and Communication Strategy Framework (2012-2017) has been launched. It is designed to roll out a number of activities in a phased manner, including implementation to monitoring. It also provides a framework for States to develop State-specific action plans for rolling out of the strategy.
- For effective dissemination of IEC messages, provision to engage Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), village level motivators (Swachhata Doots/Sanitation Managers), field functionaries like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers, School Teachers, and Bharat Nirman Volunteers has been made.
- Mobile messages based Communication was carried out on a pilot basis as an effective tool for dissemination of awareness on Sanitation targeting rural areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

- Audio and audio-visual spots have been produced in collaboration with UNICEF, on sanitation and hygiene related messages. These are being telecast/broadcast on Doordarshan, AIR, Lok Sabha TV, certain Satellite Channels and other radio station. GoI is stepping up IEC activities, to be taken-up by GoI directly. There is a Budget provision (BE) for Rs.100 crore for carrying out IEC at National level which involves not only TV, Radio but also print publicity, hoarding and banners etc.

6. Difficulties are being faced by the implementing agency at Gram Panchayat / District level, as intimated by the States are regularly being taken up with the Ministry of Rural Development. Some of the issues have been resolved, however still most of the States have requested to delink MGNREGA from NBA due to poor convergence.

However, MODW&S and MORD are continuously meeting for effective convergence of NBA & MGNREGA and States have been requested that convergence at local level may be made effective."

17. Finding that a fresh baseline survey to assess the actual rural sanitation situation at ground level, in view of wide variation found in data of State Governments and Census 2011, as instructed by GOI is ongoing in various States, the Committee had desired to be apprised of its findings *inter alia* when initiated, broad areas covered, time frame fixed for its completion etc. In response thereto the Ministry in their action taken replies informed that all States/UTs were requested in September 2012 to carry out baseline survey to broadly cover sanitation status of Individual Household Latrines(IHHLs)/School and Anganwadi toilets/Community Sanitary Complexes, identified APL category as per modified provision of NBA and defunct toilets. But no time frame was fixed though all States were directed to complete the survey at the earliest preferably before March 2013. The Committee are also informed that as per entry made by States as on 31 July 2013 online data for 151444 out of 253818 (59.67%) GPs have been entered. Noting that even after 3 months beyond the deadline of March 2013 for completing the survey, 40.33% data still remains to be entered, the Committee feel that the Ministry should have identified the reasons for this laxity in not

completing the survey in time and desire that the Ministry should vigorously persuade the States to complete the survey expeditiously so that there is uniformity in data and a clear picture of rural sanitation coverage of the country emerges.

Further, the Committee in view of difficulty being faced by State Governments/UTs in implementation of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) convergence with MGNREGAS had recommended the Ministry to have a dialogue with the Ministry of Rural Development to resolve the difficulties faced in convergence with MGNREGAS for smooth implementation of NBA. The Ministry in their action taken replies submitted to the Committee have stated that difficulties are being faced by the implementing agency at Gram Panchayat / District level, as intimated by the States are regularly being taken up with the Ministry of Rural Development. Some of the issues have been resolved, however, still most of the States have requested to delink MGNREGAS from NBA due to poor convergence. The Committee, however, note that MODW&S and MORD are continuously meeting for effective convergence of NBA and MGNREGAS and States have been requested that convergence at local level may be made effective. The Committee are of the considered view that since convergence of MGNREGAS with NBA will help rural families to enhance quality of life, the Ministry should consider replicating the experience of States which have made convergence successful in those States which are facing difficulties in this regard. At the same time, the Committee would urge the Ministry to continue their efforts to make convergence of MGNREGAS and NBA effective and should also persuade the States to closely monitor convergence at local level.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para No. 2.2)

The Committee note that the total budgetary allocation BE (Plan and non-plan) made during the fiscal year 2012-13 was Rs. 14005.24 crore which was reduced to Rs. 13005.26 crore at RE stage and the Ministry spent Rs. 12962.35 crore upto 31 March, 2013 and the utilization was almost close to 100%. The Committee note that total budgetary allocation for 2013-14 is Rs. 15265.70 crore which is Rs. 1260.46 crore higher than BE (2012-13) and Rs. 2260.44 crore higher than RE (2012-13) of the previous year budget. However, looking at the continuous downward trend at RE stage during the years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Committee feel that any cut in funds at RE stage would hamper achievement of targets. Considering the fact that drinking water is one of the most important input for survival of humanity, the allocation should not be reduced at RE stage. The Committee, accordingly, recommend that the Ministry should work in their plans right from the start of the year so that the full budgetary provisions are utilized and there is no case of reduction of budget at RE stage.

Reply of the Government

National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

As regards the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in the year 2012-13, out of the allocation at BE as well as RE stage of Rs. 10500 crore, the utilisation was Rs. 10489.06 crore (99.90%). No cut was made at the RE stage, and the funds allocated for the rural drinking water supply has been fully utilized.

In the year 2013-14 the Ministry has been allocated Rs.11000 crore for National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). The release of fund to the States is being done from the beginning of the financial year and the Ministry would strive to achieve its financial targets for the year 2013-14 as has been achieved in the previous year.

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)

Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA), States / UTs are required to forward their respective Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) to MDWS for approval before the commencement of the financial year. AIP for the year 2013-14 for all the states/UTs has been approved in April, 2013 itself. Funds also have been allocated to the States/UTs as per the Budget Estimate (BE).

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No. 2.3)

The Committee note that the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing two major Centrally Sponsored Schemes i.e., the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) through which support is extended to the State Governments in their endeavour to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country and achieving 100% rural sanitation coverage. Hence, the budgetary planning of the Ministry spins around these two Schemes. The committee find huge variation in the amount proposed to the Planning Commission by the Ministry vis-a-vis amount allocated by the Planning Commission. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the total outlay proposed was Rs. 58,139.01 crore whereas Rs. 45,740 crore was allocated. Similarly, during the Twelfth Five Year Plan, the total outlay was proposed at Rs. 1,66,686 crore and the allocation was to the tune of Rs. 98,015 crore only. The committee have been given to understand that this reduction of 59% of allocation proposed by the Ministry is due to constraints on availability of budgetary resources and competing demands on limited sources. The Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation during evidence apprised the committee that in addition to Rs. 98,015 crore for Twelfth Plan outlay Rs. 9000 crore more has been allocated by the Planning Commission under Flexi Fund Scheme. The Committee are concerned to note that reduction of funds during Twelfth Five Year Plan, by the Planning Commission would result in reduction in the target of rural population to be covered with piped water supply from the proposed 55% to 50%. Similarly due to the reduced allocation under NBA, the Ministry will not be able to work in solid and Liquid Waste Management projects to the extent proposed so as to achieve 50% Nirmal Grams during Twelfth five Year Plan. Keeping in view the targets fixed by the Ministry for its two schemes, the committee recommend that the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation should approach the Planning commission/ the Ministry of Finance with proper justifications to ensure additional funds so that their future development plans are not hampered and targets fixed are achieved fully. The Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation being crucial areas, the committee feel that funds in these areas should not be reduced.

Reply of the Government

National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been approaching the Planning Commission for enhanced allocation of funds. Under the Twelfth Plan outlay Rs. 9000 crore more has been allocated by the Planning Commission under Flexi Fund Scheme to this Ministry. The Ministry had approached the Planning Commission to urge that the allocation of the amount of Rs.9000 crore under Flexifund be made to the Ministry itself. The Planning Commission has intimated now a revised allocation of Rs. 1,05,945 crore for the XIIth. Plan, after including allocation of Rs. 9000 crore under Flexifund and allocating 1% of the Ministry's allocation to the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Shashaktikaran Yojana.

The Ministry had also approached the Ministry of Finance for an allocation of Rs.1400 crore for tackling water quality problems in remaining quality affected habitations, especially affected by Arsenic and Fluoride, in the country, spread over a period of two years. The Hon. Finance Minister has made the announcement in his Budget speech for 2013-14. The process of utilising this fund has been initiated. This

fund has been requested in addition to the annual allocations to Ministry for the years 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Similarly for implementation of the Solar Energy based Dual Pump Piped Water Supply systems in 10000 rural habitations in IAP districts of nine states, the fund allocated from the National Clean Energy Fund for part funding of the scheme is an additionally to the allocation made under the Ministry's budget.

Thus it is the Ministry endeavour to obtain additional financial resources so as to strengthen the programme.

Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)

Noted and agreed to.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No. 2.5)

The Committee are at a loss to understand that since 1950's i.e. start of First Five Year Plan, more than Rs. 1,65,000 crore has been invested to achieve the objective of providing safe and adequate drinking water to rural habitations of the country, but the problem of quantity, quality and sustainability of water still persists. The committee would strongly urge the government to make sincere and earnest efforts so that rural population has access to safe and clean water which is a basic human need. The committee, therefore, expect that the Ministry shall strive to accelerate the coverage of rural habitations by proper planning in terms of quantity and quality.

Reply of the Government

The Government of India has since the 1950's made significant investment in the rural drinking water sector. Commensurately, the achievements in rural drinking water supply sector have been significant. The Ministry has data of 16.91 lakh rural habitations of which about 12.18 lakh habitations are reported fully covered (as on 1.4.2013 – subject to updation) with adequate and safe drinking water while the remaining habitations are partially covered with safe drinking water supply (coverage measured as 40 lpcd) or have drinking water quality problems. The achievements have also been reflected in the Census 2011 report. The performance of the rural water supply sector is further reflected in the fact that the MDG target for drinking water supply in rural areas has been achieved by the country in the year 2010, five years before the target year 2015.

However it is also true that there are a number of challenges in the sector. As per Census 2011, a majority of the population resides in rural areas. Often rural areas have poor accessibility and erratic power supply affecting development in general and establishment and functioning of rural water supply schemes in particular. For ensuring livelihoods and food security, groundwater is increasingly being drawn for irrigation purposes. Industrial development has required increasing inputs of water as raw material and has also resulted in the contamination of many water bodies due to release

of untreated effluents. Further, changes in climate patterns due to climate change have resulted in erratic rainfall across the country. Increasing natural calamities like drought and floods have also created disruptions in water supply especially in rural areas. While the Census Report of 2011 has given encouraging figures of coverage of rural water supply, the reports have also indicated that a sizable percentage of rural population have to travel more than 500 mtrs to obtain drinking water. Further, issues like large number of uncovered wells in the country still exist. In the Annual Action Plan discussions being held with States in the month of March-April, 2013, States have been asked to study the Census Reports and take corrective actions urgently

Tackling Water Quality problems have also been the focus of this Ministry. Upto 67% of allocation to States can be spent on covering water quality habitations. From 2012, 5% of allocation at the National level is provided to States having chemical contamination problems in drinking water as well as to States with high incidence of Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis syndrome cases. The problem of Water Quality is dynamic one, with chemical contamination reports for ground water being reported in many parts of the country primarily due to deeper drilling for drinking water sources. The Ministry has also asked the States to ensure maintenance of traditional and old water bodies which could be used as surface sources for drinking water scheme by utilising the NRDWP Sustainability fund. The Ministry has also been asking State Governments to ensure that schemes once installed do not slip back in terms of service delivery by ensuring regular Operation & Management with participation of local PRIs.

To ensure Sustainability, the Ministry has, under NRDWP, provided 10% of the funds to the States on 100% Central share basis to be spent on ensuring sustainability of drinking water sources. This fund is utilised for construction of structures for recharge of ground water which is essential for ground water based water supply systems. States are also provided 15% funds under NRDWP for Operation & Maintenance activities which is utilised to ensure sustainable service delivery.

It is the endeavour of the Ministry to work with States to ensure quick implementation of drinking water supply schemes for providing adequate potable water on a sustainable basis.

Thus in the XIIth. Five Year Plan, the Ministry is prioritising the following:

- *Focus on piped water supply rather than on Hand pumps.*
- *Enhancement of service levels for rural water supply from the norm of 40 lpcd to 55 lpcd for designing of systems.*
- *Greater thrust on coverage of water quality affected habitations.*
- *Prioritization of States which are lagging in terms of coverage with piped-water supply.*
- *Focus on States with IAP Districts.*
- *Providing additional resources for operation and management of schemes.*
- *Conjoint approach between rural water supply and rural sanitation so as to achieve saturation of habitations with both these services.*

[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No. 2.6)

The Committee have been informed that during Twelfth Five Year Plan, the emphasis of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation would be on provision of piped water supply in rural areas to reduce the burden of fetching water on women and children and to raise the service level of supply of safe drinking water to 55 lpcd from the present level of 40 lpcd.

The committee further note that financial performance of NRDWP during 2012-13 almost 100% as against Rs. 10,500 crore at RE, the expenditure was Rs. 10489.06 crore. The committee, however, are concerned to note the decline in achievement in case of Slipped-back/Partially covered and Quality affected habitations during 2012-13 as compared to 2011-12. During 2011-12, against a target to cover 1,15,379 slipped-back/Partially covered habitations, the achievement was 1,16,246 i.e. 100.75% whereas during 2012-13 against target of covering 1,15,139 Slipped-back/Partially covered habitations, the achievement was only 82,711. Similarly in case of Quality affected habitations, during 2011-12, against target of 29,790, the achievement was 22,121. However, during 2012-13 against target of 26,521 achievement made was only 15,560.

The Committee are further apprised that under NRDWP the focus will continue to be on providing coverage of Quality affected and Partially covered habitations preferably through piped water supply. It is planned to cover 75,000 Partially covered habitations and 22,000 Quality affected habitations under NRDWP in 2013-14 and cover 3.25 crore persons with piped water supply. The Ministry owe an explanation to the Committee for steep decline in achievement during the year 2012-13. They also expect the Ministry to make concrete efforts to achieve the targets set for the current year viz. 2013-14.

Reply of the Government

The figures quoted in the para for 2012-13 are as on 31st. December 2012. The final targets and achievements under the NRDWP for 2012-13, at the end of the financial year as on 31.3.2013, are as follows:-

Against a total target to cover 1,41,660 rural habitations, the achievement was 1,55,706 habitations (110%). Against a target of covering 1,15,139 Slipped-back/Partially covered habitations, the achievement was 1,36,304 habitations (118%) while in the case of Quality affected habitations, against a target of 26,521 habitations, achievement was 19,402 habitations (73.15%).

While the achievement in the Partially Covered category is higher than the target, the performance in the quality affected targets is less than the target. States which have performed significantly less than their targets under this category include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, UP and West Bengal. The reason for this includes the fact that some schemes have taken a longer time to complete than originally envisaged. States have been asked to ensure proper targeting and completion of schemes taken up in time.

To focus on coverage of quality affected habitations in 2013-14, States have specifically asked re-examine the issue and plan for achieving the target at the beginning of the year. Further the Ministry is initiating a specific effort by providing at the Central level, an earmarked allocation of Rs.1400 crore to cover Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No. 2.7)

The Committee are dismayed to note that States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh have less than 10% access to piped water from taps. Whereas, 40.70% households in Manipur, 37.90% in Meghalaya, 36.40% in Jharkhand and 36.10% in Madhya Pradesh still fetch drinking water from more than 500 meters. The Committee while expressing concern at the sorry state of affairs in Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh having less than 10% access to piped water from taps, desire that special attention needs to be paid to these States so as to enhance the piped water supply. The Committee also desire the Ministry to take effective measures to accord priority to encourage households connections so as to reduce the burden of fetching water on women and children.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry has taken cognizance of the fact that rural areas need an improvement in service levels with respect to drinking water supply, and the need to bridge the gap between rural and urban areas. During the Annual Action Plan discussions held in the months of March and April 2013, the Ministry specifically discussed with the States the situation arising out of the Census 2011 report in respect of the distance that the rural population in their states have to travel to fetch water. States have been told to study the Census report in detail and see what the reasons for such results could be. State plans have to be prepared to tackle this issue.

The Ministry has also analysed the Census 2011 report with respect to piped water supply and found that Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh are indeed the states with less than 10% coverage of piped water supply. Piped water supply being the main focus area in the XIIth. Five Year Plan, the Ministry has taken the proactive stand of initiating the preparation of a World bank supported Project for Low Income states, with specific focus of extending the coverage of piped water supply, to be implemented in the Ist. Phase in 4 states including Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam, due to their poor coverage of piped water supply, and Eastern Up, due the incidences of Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in the State. In Phase II of the Project it is proposed that States like Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh, which also have low piped water supply coverage will be taken up. Establishment of Household connections is also being proposed under this project.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para No. 2.10)

The Committee note that a project costing Rs. 574 crore under the National Clean Energy Fund (NCEF) for solar Powered Dual pump based piped water supply scheme which is not dependent on electric supply for water pumping, will be set up in 82 Integrated Action Plan districts, in 9 States, covering 10,000 habitations,. The Committee are also informed that the scheme which is designed by the Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA), Government of Maharashtra, Pune has been successfully implemented in about 1716 habitations of Maharashtra. The committee are apprised that each scheme can meet the drinking water needs of about 250 persons and has been found to be useful in providing piped water supply and tackling drinking water problems of remote and small hamlets/habitations. The committee also find that Ministry has obtained clearance of partial funding from the NCEF and the remaining cost will be borne from the NRDWP. The NCEF shall bear 40% of the cost of the project while the rest of the expenditure (60%) is to be borne from the NRDWP.

While appreciating the utilization of innovative technologies like Solar Powered Dual pump based piped water supply scheme whereby water can be pumped from deeper levels without using electricity or batteries in remote and small hamlets/habitations with drinking water problems, the committee would like to be apprised of the proposed year-wise targets to cover 10,000 habitations in 9 States under the project.

Reply of the Government

The targets of coverage of rural habitations under the NCEF Supported Solar Powered Dual pump based piped water supply scheme, State-wise is as below. States are to implement their targets over a period of 2 years 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Sl No	Name of the State	No of rural habitations proposed by State	No of Habitations for which funds were released in March 2013.
1.	Bihar	504	281
2.	Maharashtra	68	38
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1199	669
4.	Andhra Pradesh	275	153
5.	West Bengal	704	393
6.	Uttar Pradesh	173	96
7.	Jharkhand	1922	1072
8.	Orissa	3159	1761
9.	Chhattisgarh	1722	960
	Total	9726	5423

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para No. 2.12)

The Committee had sought the status of functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants set up in Andaman & Nicobar Islands through Zilla Panchayats. It was pointed out by the Committee during evidence that the data furnished by the Ministry in respect of functioning of Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants was inaccurate as the Committee themselves had inspected these Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants during their study visit to Andaman & Nicobar Islands during February 2013. The said data was provided to the Ministry by the Directorate of RD, PRIs and Urban Local Bodies in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in this context, assured the Committee to send a two member Committee consisting official of the Ministry to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands to visit the plants, consult local representatives including Member of Parliament, the members of the district and Zila Panchayats to get the figures verified in respect of functioning of RO plants set up there and submit a Report in this regard to the Committee. The Committee expect that information furnished to them is factual and accurate. They also desire the Ministry to take necessary action to have a factual Report on the status of functioning of R.O. Plants in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and submit the same to the Committee at the earliest.

Reply of the Government

Based on the advice of the Standing Committee, the Central Team constituted by the Ministry, visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands in April, 2013 and submitted its report with detailed performance of each RO Plant visited by the team. Requisite copies of this report have already been submitted by the Ministry to the Lok Sabha (Secretariat) both in Hindi and English versions. During the Standing Committee meeting held for North East states and Andaman and Nicobar Island on 12.7.2013, the Hon'ble MP from A&N Island also appreciated the facts brought out by the team in their report.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para No. 2.13)

During the study visit of the Committee in February, 2013 at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, a demonstration of Mobile Treatment Plant (MTP) van for supply of safe drinking water during disaster situation was made before the Committee. The Committee are apprised that MTPs are of immense help during natural calamity as the MTP system effectively removes varied contaminants from untreated water to produce drinking water instantly at the site @ 5000 pouches per hour which is pure enough for human consumption. The Committee find that the main advantage of MTP is that it can be carried away anywhere to treat the water, the unit comprises of power generator, pre-treatment, post-treatment storage tank and pouch packing machine. This not only desalinates the water but also prevents the spread of post flood epidemics. The Committee are also apprised that MTP vans are available with the States of West

Bengal, Tripura and Assam and can be purchased by the State by utilizing 67% of NRDWP funds available for Coverage/Quality Components after obtaining approval of the State level Scheme Sanctioning Committee or by utilizing Natural Calamity funds under NRDWP.

Keeping in view the effectiveness of the Mobile Treatment Plants (MTPs) to produce drinking water instantly at the site @ 5000 pouches per hour, the Committee strongly recommend that the Government should encourage and motivate the State Governments to come forward and purchase these MTP vans to cover more and more areas.

Reply of the Government

As directed by the Standing Committee, the Ministry will suggest all the State Govt.'s to consider procuring Mobile Water Treatment Plants as power to sanction/ approve projects has been delegated to the States. They will be advised to take up such plants especially in those states which are frequently affected by cyclones and floods and/ or large tracts of area having water quality problems viz Rajasthan, Gujarat, Orissa etc. However, the states will be advised to consider only such unit processes in the Mobile Treatment Plant which are applicable to the local areas.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para No. 2.14)

The Committee note that Jalmani scheme was initiated with a view to providing safe and clean drinking water to children studying in water deficient schools. Against the target of 1,00,000 rural schools, coverage as on 20.02.2013 has been to the extent of 91, 409 rural schools. The Committee also note that out of Rs. 19,999.98 crore released since 2008-09, Rs. 11,989.55 have been utilized so far. The Committee are apprised that the remaining schools are expected to be covered by the end of the financial year as those States which have not achieved the targets set under Jalmani scheme have been advised to commission the stand alone water purification systems in targeted rural schools immediately and State Governments have also given commitment to complete the targets within the next few months. The Committee, therefore, desire to be apprised of the up-to-date status of achievement of targets in respect of covering 1,00,000 rural schools. To overcome the problem of regular supply of electricity, the Committee would like the Ministry to explore the possibility of installing solar based Jalmani scheme.

Reply of the Government

The Jalmani scheme of providing Standalone water purification system is only a pilot project intended to target 1 lakh rural Schools for providing safe drinking water at the consumption point. As reported into the IMIS by the states, installation of such units have been completed in 95,855 rural Schools and the remaining Schools are likely to be covered in the current financial year itself. The States have already been advised to convert normal hand pumps into force-lift hand pumps for pumping water into the over tanks wherever availability of power is a problem. Technologies like ultra-filtration are available which can reduce turbidity & bacterial contamination without using electricity.

However, the recommendation of the Standing Committee has already taken into cognizance by approving installation of 10,000 solar based dual pumps in 9 states having IAP districts and first installment funds have been released.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para No. 2.15)

The Committee note that the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme was initiated in February, 2006 to develop the understanding and appreciation of safe and clean drinking water amongst rural habitations and to enable them to carry out tests to determine the quality of drinking water by providing 100% financial assistance to States. The programme aimed at empowering rural habitations by bringing awareness about drinking water quality, sanitary survey and importance of environment sanitation etc. So far as on 22.03.2013, total 17,46,509 persons viz. 19,696 District Officials, 1,85,866 Block Officials and 1,54,0947 Grass root workers in GPs have been trained for using field test kits for testing drinking water quality in various States. The Committee are also informed that during the Eleventh and Twelfth Five Year Plans so far Rs. 418.64 crore have been utilized by the States/UTs, while the amount released was Rs. 561.30 crore. The Committee would like the Ministry to make concerted efforts to persuade the State Governments to impart training to the remaining people by effectively utilizing the funds so as to achieve the objectives of National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme.

Reply of the Government

The recommendations of the committee to impart training to the rural people on use of field test kit is well taken by the Ministry. During the year 2013, 4.40 lakh people have been imparted training in Gram Panchayats as a part of Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance during the year 2012-13 and as per reports available, during 2013-14 as on 22/7/13, 25,864 people in GPs have been reported to have provided training on usage of field test kits.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para No. 2.16)

The Committee have been informed that as on 22.03.2013, 729 District laboratories have been established in 650 Districts of the Country. 1,129 sub-divisional/ block level laboratories have also been set up in various States. Against a target of 192 and 518 new labs to be set up at District and sub district level respectively, the achievement is 14 and 162 respectively. The Committee further find that 3,246 labs out of 4,143 have been upgraded so far. Further against a target of 39,87,825 water samples to be tested, 18,80,936 samples have been tested. The Committee feel that in view of more than half districts of the country being quality affected, concrete efforts need to be made towards meeting the targets of testing water samples as this will help the Ministry in taking stock of contamination of ground water and to take corrective action accordingly.

Reply of the Government

During the year 2013, 192 new sub divisional laboratories have been set up and reported to the IMIS. As a result of which about 22 lakh rural drinking water sources have been tested in the last year through 1,927 Water Quality Testing Laboratories. The recommendations of the committee is well taken and every effort will be made by the Ministry to further improve and strengthen water quality & monitoring & surveillance activities through laboratories. During the current year 2013-14, 4.40 lakh sources have been reported to be tested in laboratories so far as on 22/7/13.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para No. 2.17)

The Committee note that as per progress reported by the State Governments through online monitoring system 71% of families in rural areas have sanitation facilities. However, as per Census 2011 data, sanitation coverage in rural India has reached 32.70% taking into consideration the increased population, which is an increase of 2.96 crore households as compared to earlier Census of 2001. In respect of wide variation found in the data, the Committee are informed that the Government of India has instructed the States/UTs to conduct fresh baseline survey to assess the actual situation at ground level and the said survey is reported to be going on. While expressing concern to note that rural habitations still do not have access to sanitation, the Committee would like to know the reasons for this wide variation in the data of Census 2011 and that reported by the State Governments. At the same time, the Committee would also like to be apprised of the findings of the fresh baseline survey being undertaken *inter alia* including when initiated, broad areas covered, time frame fixed for completion etc.

The Committee find that the goal of NBA (earlier Total Sanitation Coverage) is to achieve 100% access to sanitation for all rural households by 2022. The new strategy is to transform rural India into 'Nirmal Bharat' by adopting community saturation approach. During 2012-13, as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 2500 crore at RE, the actual expenditure was Rs.2473.29 i.e. 86.07% .During 2013-14, the budgetary allocation BE is Rs. 4260 crore which indicates an increase of 70% over RE of 2012-13.

The Committee note that since NBA is a demand driven scheme, hence no annual targets are fixed. During 2012-13 (upto February 2013), 38,30,495 IHHL, 1342 sanitary complex, 60,457 school toilets and 24,422 Anganwadi Toilets were constructed. Whereas during 2011-12, 87,98,864 Individual household latrines, 2547 sanitary complex, 1,22,471 school toilets and 28409 Anganwadi Toilets were constructed. The Committee are constrained to note that the performance during 2012-13 was less than 50% as compared to 2011-12. The Committee are apprised that low achievement of targets was due to revision of NBA guidelines in July 2012 as State Governments took time to put in place the mechanism of implementation of new guidelines. The Committee are unable to understand that restructuring of any programme should reflect by way of improvement in the achievement, whereas in this case the performance during 2012-13 showed a declining trend.

The Committee are further apprised that during the year 2013-14, 100 lakh Individual household latrines, 70,000 school toilets and 80,000 Anganwadi toilets are proposed to be constructed and more emphasis will be given on Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). It is also proposed to develop 20,000 Gram Panchayats as Nirmal Grams during 2013-14. The Committee are informed that the construction of Individual toilets, schools toilets, Anganwadi toilets and Community Sanitary Complexes will be given priority to keep Government's vision of Nirmal Bharat by 2022 but due to reduction in allocation, target of solid and liquid waste management will not be achieved. The Committee desire the Ministry to make earnest and sincere efforts to achieve the targets set by fully utilizing the budgetary allocation. The Committee while expressing concern that target of solid and liquid waste management will not be achieved would like the Ministry to approach the Ministry of Finance for higher allocation of funds.

The Committee find that major bottleneck faced in the attainment of objectives of NBA is that large sections of Indian population are not convinced of the need to stop open defecation because of lack of proper awareness about the problems associated with it and hence building toilets is often not a priority even for people who can afford to construct toilets and use it. The Committee are of the considered view that utmost priority should be given to bring about behavioral change in the rural populace because without creating awareness, demand to create the toilets from the rural communities is least expected. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to take suitable policy measures to create awareness so that demand is created from communities to have toilets.

The Committee note that another difficulty being faced by State Governments/UTs in implementation of NBA is convergence with MGNREGS. The Committee feel that because of involvement of two different Departments which have to converge at local level, States are finding difficulties. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to have a dialogue with Ministry of Rural Development to resolve the difficulties faced in convergence with MGNREGS for smooth implementation of NBA.

Reply of the Government

Efforts of the State Governments for promoting rural sanitation were supplemented from 1986 till 1999 by the Central Government under the centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) and thereafter from 1999 under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Total sanitation Campaign (TSC) was launched as demand driven, community led programme with major IEC inputs to make sanitation a felt need of the people. Under TSC, financial assistance to BPLs was to be provided after construction and usage of the toilets.

As per study conducted by CMS and as reported by various states, the very low incentive, which prevailed under the Total Sanitation Campaign have played havoc with the programme. Many dysfunctional toilets and slip-backs have been attributed owing to this. The gap between the census data 2011 and the figures reported by states in sanitation coverage through Integrated Management information System is primarily due to the low incentive /subsidy (Rs 625/-) given during major portion of the programme implementation (2001-2006).

MoDW&S have requested all States/UTs to carry out baseline survey in September 2012 broadly to cover sanitation status of Individual Household Latrines (IHLs)/School & Anganwadis toilets/ Community Sanitary Complexes, identified APL

category as per modified provision of NBA and defunct toilets. No timeframe was fixed though all states were directed to complete the survey at the earliest preferably before March'13. As per entry made by States, as if now, online data for 151444 out of 253818 (59.67 %) GPs have been entered.

2. During 2012-13 as against budgetary allocation of Rs. 2500/- crore at RE, the actual expenditure was Rs. 2473.29 i.e. 98.93 % not 86.07 % as reported.

3. So far as declining trend after modification in guidelines is concerned it is submitted that Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs in its meeting held on 7.6.2012 had approved the continuation of the Rural Sanitation Programme in the 12th FYP from 1.4.2012. Accordingly, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan(NBA) Guidelines modified & issued in July, 2012. Under NBA, the provision of enhanced incentive for individual household latrine units was extended to identified categories of APL households along-with all BPL households w.e.f 1.4.2012. The NBA guidelines also envisaged convergence with MGNREGS for additional financial assistance. To implement the NBA-MGNREGS smoothly, MGNREGS guideline was revised by Ministry of Rural Development in September, 2012 and eventually States could frame their line of Action in Oct-Nov, 2012 only to implement the NBA programme.

4. So far as approaching to Ministry of Finance for higher allocation of funds is concerned it is submitted that this depends on utilization of funds by the States and the position will be assessed at the time of RE and if required Ministry of Finance will be requested for allocation of additional funds as suggested by the Committee.

5. As desired by the committee that Ministry may take suitable policy measures to create awareness so that demand is created from communities to have toilets, in this regard it is submitted that Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is an important component of the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) / Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA). Government of India has formulated and issued IEC Guidelines in order to provide a broad framework to the States for the implementation of IEC activities to increase awareness among rural people, generation of demand for sanitation facilities and creation of clean environment. The other major steps taken by the Government to improve IEC as part of TSC /NBA are as under:

- Under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) formerly known as Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), 15% of the total outlay of district projects has been earmarked for Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities.
- Sanitation and Hygiene Advocacy and Communication Strategy Framework (2012-2017) has been launched. It is designed to roll out a number of activities in a phased manner, including implementation to monitoring. It also provides a framework for States to develop State-specific action plans for rolling out of the strategy.
- For effective dissemination of IEC messages, provision to engage Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), village level motivators (Swachhata Doots/Sanitation Managers), field functionaries like Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers, School Teachers, and Bharat Nirman Volunteers has been made.
- Mobile messages based Communication was carried out on a pilot basis as an effective tool for dissemination of awareness on Sanitation targeting rural areas

of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh.

- Audio and audio-visual spots have been produced in collaboration with UNICEF, on sanitation and hygiene related messages. These are being telecast/broadcast on Doordarshan, AIR, Lok Sabha TV, certain Satellite Channels and other radio station. GoI is stepping up IEC activities, to be taken-up by GoI directly. There is a Budget provision (BE) for Rs.100 crore for carrying out IEC at National level which involves not only TV, Radio but also print publicity, hoarding and banners etc.

6. Difficulties are being faced by the implementing agency at Gram Panchayat / District level, as intimated by the States are regularly being taken up with the Ministry of Rural Development. Some of the issues have been resolved, however still most of the states have requested to delink MGNREGA from NBA due to poor convergence.

However, MODW&S and MORD are continuously meeting for effective convergence of NBA & MGNREGA and States have been requested that convergence at local level may be made effective.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 17 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para No. 2.19)

The Committee note that to encourage Panchayati Raj Institutions in sanitation promotion, an incentive scheme called 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' (NGP) was initiated in October, 2003. The emphasis of NGP is on attaining 100% sanitation coverage in Gram Panchayats so that the practice of open defecation is completely eliminated and health benefits actually accrue to the villagers. The committee find that Rs.162 crore have been allocated for NGP for 2013-14. The committee also note that so far 28,002 Gram Panchayats have been awarded 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' by the Ministry.

The Committee consider that awarding Gram Panchayats, 'Nirmal Gram Puraskar' for achieving open defecation free status is a step in the right direction and are of the view that sincere efforts need to be made to popularize NGO. The Committee also desire to make concerted efforts to ensure sustainability of Open Defecation Free (OFD) status of the awarded Gram Panchayats.

Reply of the Government

In this connection it is submitted that new Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) guidelines with reference to Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) have been issued in December, 2012. NGP till 2011 was given by MODW&S, Government of India all levels of PRIs that is Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat and district Panchayat. It has now been decided that with the transition to NBA, selection of Gram Panchayats to award

NGP from the year 2012 shall be taken up by the States, while selection of the Blocks and District Panchayats shall continue to be with the Centre. Award money for the Gram Panchayats has also been enhanced.

Additional Award Money for bonus points for house hold piped water connections from Nation Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme (NRDWP) has also been made. GPs will get additional award money,

For sustainability of Nirmal Status of the Gram Panchayat, provision has been made in NGP guidelines for release of award money in the following mode:

- 25% of the award money will be released to the GPs in cash on declaration of award.
- 75% of the award money to be kept as a fixed deposit for two years in the GP's name.

The Gram Panchayat can utilize the interest derived from the fixed deposit for sustaining the Nirmal status. The District must verify the sustainability of Nirmal Gram status and provide a certificate to the State to the effect that the Gram Panchayat has maintained the Nirmal gram status at the end of two years for release of the fixed deposit.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para No. 2.20)

The Committee are constrained to note consistent unspent balances under National rural Drinking Water Supply Programme (NRDWP) at the end of 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 which are to the tune of Rs. 3766.55 crore, Rs. 3522.20 crore, and Rs. 5447.71 crore respectively. Similarly, under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA) the unspent balance are to the tune of Rs.1176.70 crore, Rs.1292.48 crore and Rs.1835.24 crore at the end of 201-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The Committee find that the problem of unspent balances is prominent in the States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat under NRDWP. Whereas substantial unspent balances under NBA, are lying with States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra and Jharkhand.

The Committee are apprised about the efforts made in pursuing the State Governments to liquidate these unspent balances. Under the NRDWP, a specific provision exists that excess closing balance of more than 10% of available funds, is deducted while releasing the 2nd installment of the subsequent year. This deducted amount can be restored when the State is able to spend at least 75% of the available funds in that year. Further the 2nd installment is released to the States only when they report utilization of at least 60% of available funds. At the same time States with higher pace of utilization of funds are incentivized by release of additional funds over and above their annual NRDWP allocation. Under NBA, strict monitoring methods are adopted to obtain the progress of each District on real time basis using the online monitoring system. Regular review meetings/Video Conferences etc. are organized by the Ministry to discuss issues relating to implementation of the NBA and utilization of

funds. Apart from this, strict financial regulation with release of 2nd installment only after 60% utilization has been incorporated to address the issue of unspent balances.

The Committee are disappointed to note that despite various efforts made by the Ministry to liquidate the unspent balances, the problems of unspent balances still persists. The committee, therefore, strongly urge the Ministry to vigorously pursue the matter with State Governments by way of strict monitoring and exercising financial management so that funds allocated for the schemes are effectively utilized in time.

Reply of the Government

So far as unspent balance with the States/UTs in respect of NBA is concerned it is submitted that strict financial norms has now been included in NBA guidelines as under:

“para 13.1.4 – The fund released in the first installment shall be 50% of the amount approved in the PAC and shall be reduced by the amount of opening balance in excess of 10% of the previous year’s release to the State.”

Therefore, at the time of release of first installment to the States/UTs, the opening balance in excess of 10% of the previous year’s release to the States/UTs is being reduced. This will improve the position of unspent balance with the States/UTs.

Moreover, before the release of 2nd installment following documents will be obtained:

- District wise physical and financial progress reports
- Annual Performance Report
- Statement of achievement
- Committee of the state to the release of proportionate State share
- Utilization of 60% of the available funds with the SWSM i.e. opening balance, funds released as first installment of Grant-in-aid under NBA during the year and interest earned thereon, Central Share and State Share separately.
- Audited Statement of Accounts of the preceding financial year
- Utilization Certificate for Central and State Share separately

However, as suggested by committee, State Governments will be pursued more vigorously to monitor and exercise financial management so that funds allocated for the schemes are effectively utilized in time.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Chapter III

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

-NIL-

Chapter IV

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para No. 2.9)

The Committee are informed that the Ministry is preparing to roll out a World Bank assisted Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Project in four States i.e. Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, that have lagged behind the other States in providing piped water supply to the rural population. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 5,400 crore (US Dollar 1 billion) out of which Rs. 2,700 crore will be World Bank assistance and the remaining Rs. 2,700 crore will be funded from the Central and State resources. The Committee note that this will be a six year project and about 16,200 rural habitations are proposed to be benefited by this. The Committee are further apprised that based on its success, second phase in four more States will be rolled out. The committee feel that six years time is too long to complete such an important project and desire the Ministry to review the time period of its completion. The Committee, therefore, desire to implement the project with utmost sincerity and complete it within two-three years time so that rural areas in these States, which are lagging behind in piped water supply, are benefitted.

Reply of the Government

The World Bank supported RWSS-LIS Project plans to cover 16,200 habitations in 33 districts of 4 States – Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The Project is designed to bring about a combination of institutional changes, enhanced investments in infrastructure and capacity and transformation in policies and processes to achieve the Project objectives. The Project has therefore been designed with the following fundamental principles:

- (a) Decentralization
- (b) Community participation and demand responsiveness
- (c) District-wide approach
- (d) Enhanced accountability
- (e) Water Security for all, and
- (f) Convergence of water and sanitation measures

The Project has been planned to be completed in 6 years with the following approach due to reasons including:

1. The decentralized nature of the Project requires community mobilization. Extensive IEC/HRD activities are planned to mobilize the PRIs and beneficiaries and achieve better service delivery in the Project area.
2. The proposed Project envisages implementing water schemes through:
 - Single Village Schemes (SVS) which includes Single Habitation Schemes (SHS) and Single GP Schemes (Multiple Habitations),
 - Small Multi Village Schemes (multiple GPs- usually 3 to 4)
 - Large Multi Village Schemes (multiple GPs- usually more than 5)

The scheme cycle for each SVS is planned to be 12-18 months after the selection of GPS, including pre-planning, planning and implementation. Similarly, the schemes cycle for each MVS has been planned to be 24-33 months.

3. The Project plans to cover selected districts in the participating States – 7 in Assam, 10 in Bihar, 6 in Jharkhand and 10 in Uttar Pradesh. In view of existing limited capacity of the implementing authorities, it is not possible to implement many schemes in parallel in a district. Therefore, the implementation has been planned to be staggered in 3 batches.
4. The Project is planned to be implemented in 3 batches each of three years duration. The Project plans to implement majority of the projects during the first 2 batches. The details of each batch are as follows.
5. Batch I: FY 2013-14 to FY 15-16: In all the four States with 30% of infrastructure investments along with full scale capacity building and project management activities.
Batch II: FY 15-16 to FY 17-18: 35% of new schemes are planned to be implemented during this batch, along capacity building of associated PRIs. Capacity building and project management activities started in batch 1 will continue.
Batch III: FY 16-17 to FY 18-19: The remaining schemes are planned to be taken up in this batch along with capacity building and project management activities.
6. A rigorous M&E is planned for the Project and the lessons learnt from previous batches will be incorporated in the new schemes.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para No. 2.17)

The Committee find that in order to promote research and development in the area of water quality, the Ministry funds R & D projects to premier institutions, universities, autonomous organisation including NGOs/voluntary agencies. To consider R&D proposals and provide guidance, the Ministry has constituted a Research & Development Advisory Committee (R&DAC). The Committee note that against the target of 149 sanctioned projects, 127 projects have been completed. During the year 2012-13, a total of 5 R & D projects have been approved by the R & DAC. However, no R & D project is reported to be completed during 2011-12 and 2012-13. The reason adduced by the Ministry that since no R&D institution has furnished the necessary documents during these two years and therefore, no project could be completed sounds unconvincing as Government should have examined this aspect and would have taken corrective action to enable the timely completion of projects. The Committee find this situation highly unsatisfactory and would await further follow-up action by the Ministry in this regard.

Reply of the Government

In this regard, it is stated that the Ministry will follow up with R&D Institutions asking them to furnish required documents in order to ensure completion of R&D projects without further delay.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Paragraph No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report)

Chapter V

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

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para No. 2.4)

The Committee note that in order to supply clean, safe and adequate water to the rural population, the Government of India supplements the programmes of the State Governments through National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). About the status of functioning of all drinking water schemes as on 28.02.2013, the committee have been apprised that out of 16,66,075 rural habitations in the country, 12,84,512 rural habitations are fully covered with access to at least 40 liters per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water. The remaining partially covered rural habitations have access to safe drinking water but may be providing less than an average of 40 lpcd round the year. The Committee further find that according to the figures of Census 2011, out of 16,78,26,730 rural households, 5,16,90,633 i.e. 30.80 %, have access to piped drinking water from taps, 3,70,89,707 i.e., 22.10 % rural habitations fetch their drinking water from more than 500 meters from their homes. The Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation during evidence informed that according to NSSO 65th Round for 2008-09, 90% rural households had access to water from secured sources which could now be 92.93%. The committee have also been informed that Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target for drinking water supply in rural areas has been achieved by the country in the year 2005, ten years before the target year 2015.

The committee find it strange that there is no uniformity in the figures relating to coverage of drinking water in the country. In this context, the committee in their Twenty-seventh Report had also recommended that an independent evaluation study may be carried out to determine the actual coverage of drinking water in the rural areas so that the planning process may be properly calibrated for taking corrective measures to cover the entire population at the earliest. While reiterating their earlier recommendation, the Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the independent study commissioned by the Ministry of determine the actual coverage of drinking water in the rural areas.

Reply of the Government

The main sources of data on coverage of rural habitations and population with drinking water supply are the NSSO report (65th round in 2008-09), the Census 2011 reports and the data on the IMIS of the Ministry.

The NSSO survey gave information on the coverage of rural households, showing 90.2% of the population getting water from safe sources. Secretary DWS during oral evidence had stated this information i.e. that 90.2 per cent of the households were covered including piped water, tap connections, hand pumps and all protected wells, which is the definition of "improved sources" used by the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) of UNICEF and WHO, which monitors the achievement of the MDGs by countries. India has achieved its MDG goal of halving the population without access to safe sources as it existed in 1990.

The Census 2011 has also assessed access to drinking water facilities of all rural households in the country and reported that 84.02% of the rural households have tap water, covered well water and hand pump/ tube well water as the main source of drinking water.

Now that the Census 2011 figures are available, States have been urged to identify habitations without safe drinking water sources and also those where the drinking water source is more than 500 metres away from households and prioritise them in their Annual Action Plans for taking corrective measures to cover them at the earliest.

The data on the IMIS as entered by the States as on 1.4.2013, indicate that out of the 16.91 lakh rural habitations, about 12.18 lakh habitations are fully covered (as measured on the basis of 40 lpcd), 3.90 lakhs Partially covered and 0.82 lakhs quality affected (data subject to updating).

The order of coverage reported in all the three sources are similar, with variations that exist possibly being due to varying time frames of the survey and the sample size and methodology of data collection.

However to verify the data on the IMIS the Ministry has in 2012-13 commissioned an independent evaluation study of the data entered on the IMIS by States, the report of which is expected to be available in 2013-14.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para No. 2.8)

The Committee in their Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2012-13) had recommended to work out modalities to ascertain the sustainability of sources in the form of measuring service standard levels in terms of number of hours and number of days of water supply throughout the year. The Committee have been informed that the issue of measurement of services in terms of number of hours and number of days in respect of drinking water supply in rural areas throughout the year for all 16.66 lakhs rural habitations in the country is a huge challenge and currently, the Ministry is not in a position to monitor the hours and days of water supply of each individual scheme covering rural habitations at national level as this kind of monitoring can be done at the State level or below. However, the Ministry in principle has agreed to a proposal by Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad for Benchmarking of Service Levels for a study of rural drinking water supply and sanitation in rural areas. This study will enable the Ministry to lay down the modalities for measuring service standard levels for guidance of States. The committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to expedite the study and apprise them of its outcome.

Reply of the Government

The Ministry is in consultation with the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad for a study on Benchmarking of Service Levels in rural drinking water supply and sanitation that can be carried out across the country.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para No. 2.11)

The Committee are constrained to note that out of the total 650 districts in the country more than half i.e. 358 districts have water quality problems covering 94,000 habitations. The Committee also take note that the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2013-14 had highlighted that there are still 2,000 arsenic and 12,000 fluoride affected rural habitations in the country and Rs. 1400 crore have been provided towards setting up water purification plants. The Committee are apprised that to utilize this amount, a detailed EFC Memorandum for tackling about 14,000 remaining fluoride and arsenic affected habitations in the country is being prepared and the details of the proposal are being worked out. In view of various health hazards posed by arsenic and fluoride contaminants the Committee cannot but deplore the delayed action on the part of the Government in tackling water quality problems. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry to expedite the process for timely setting up of water purification plants so that the remaining arsenic and fluoride affected habitations are covered by fully utilizing the funds earmarked.

The Committee have also been apprised that to remove arsenic substance in the water, 57 technologies have been test trialled. They are apprised that major problem involved in arsenic removal is to desensitise and to inactivate the reject material which comes out of the plant containing large amount of arsenic which goes into the food chain as well as into the water chain and this requires more R&D because unlike fluoride, arsenic mobilization is very fast. The Committee would, therefore, emphasise to make concerted R&D efforts not only to remove arsenic, but also other contaminants from the water so that clean and safe water is available for consumption.

Reply of the Government

As directed by the Standing Committee, the Ministry has already circulated the EFC Memo on setting up of Water Purification Plants not only for the remaining 2,000 Arsenic and 12,000 fluoride affected habitations but also in such habitations reported with contamination of heavy metals (including uranium) and pesticides in rural drinking water sources. The Ministry will make all efforts to get the proposal appraised by the EFC and approved by the Cabinet.

In the EFC Memo prepared for setting up of Water Purification Plants emphasis has been laid on a seven year Operation and Maintenance protocol which inter alia include Reject Water Management. The studies on Arsenic and fluoride getting into the food chain will be taken up in details by the Ministry once the proposed International Centre for Drinking Water Quality is approved and set up in Kolkata.

*[O.M. No. H.11011/05/2013-DWS(Coord.) dated 2 August, 2013,
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation]*

**NEW DELHI;
17 December, 2013
26Agrahayana, 1935 (Saka)**

**SUMITRA MAHAJAN
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Rural Development**

COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT (2013-2014)
MINUTES OF THE SIXTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON
TUESDAY, THE 17 DECEMBER, 2013

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Thangso Baite
3. Dr. Ratna De (Nag)
4. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
5. Smt. Annu Tandon
6. Smt. Usha Verma
7. Shri Anantha Venkatarami Reddy

RAJYA SABHA

8. Shri D. Bandyopadhyay
9. Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra
10. Shri C.P. Narayanan
11. Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Shri Brahm Dutt | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. Smt. Veena Sharma | - | Director |
| 3. Smt. Meenakshi Sharma | - | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the members to the sitting of the Committee convened for consideration of Memoranda containing draft Reports of the Committee on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in three Reports on Demands for Grants (2013-14) and one Report on 'Working of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in States/UTs'.

3. The Committee then took up for consideration the following draft Action Taken Reports:-

(i) X X X X X X X X X X X X;

(ii) X X X X X X X X X X X X;

(iii) Draft Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report on Demands for Grants (2013-14) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation; and

(iv) X X X X X X X X X X X X.

4. Draft Reports were taken up seriatim. After detailed discussions, the Committee adopted the Reports with minor modifications. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize the aforesaid Reports and present the same to the Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

X Relevant portion of the Minutes not related with the subject have been kept separately.

APPENDIX - II

[Vide Introduction of Report]

**ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FORTIETH REPORT
(15TH LOK SABHA) OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

I.	Total number of recommendations:	19
II.	Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government :	
	Serial Nos.1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19	
	Total:	14
	Percentage:	73.68 %
III.	Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies :	
	Serial No. - NIL -	
	Total:	00
	Percentage:	0.00 %
IV.	Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:	
	Serial No. 8 and 16	
	Total:	02
	Percentage:	10.52 %
V.	Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited :	
	Serial Nos. 3, 7 and 10	
	Total:	03
	Percentage:	15.80 %