

## Water Supply and Sanitation

10.63 Availability of drinking water and provision of sanitation facilities are the basic minimum requirements for healthy living. State Governments and Urban Local Bodies are responsible for providing such facilities to the urban population. There is increasing awareness that supply of drinking water in cities is posing serious problems because of scarcity of water and inability of civic authorities to access new sources of potable water. Acute scarcity of water in summer months has become common. Whereas sharing of cost by the users in urban areas is necessary, it is equally important that expansion in supply facilities and their subsequent maintenance is planned in anticipation of accretion to urban population which of late has accelerated due to migration from rural areas. Water supply scheme for 544 towns have been sanctioned at a project cost of Rs.636 crore in 1993-94, against which Rs.221 crore have been released as Central Government's share. Out of these 105 schemes have been sanctioned during the year 2000-2001 at a project cost of Rs.135.3 crore.

10.64 The service levels vary among different categories of cities. On an average, the per capita supply in Class-I (with population above 1 lakh) is around 140 litres per capita per day (lpcd). In other classes of towns the supply levels are far from satisfactory. It is estimated that the unaccounted for water ranges between 20 per cent to 40 per cent, which implies that, a substantial quantity of the precious water is being lost through leakages.

10.65 In the case of sanitation, out of the 3768 cities/towns, which includes 300 Class-I cities,

only 252 Class-I cities have partial sewerage facilities, which account for about 70 per cent of the population of these cities. Of the total 15772 mld municipal waste-water generated in these cities, about 74 per cent or 11693 mld is collected and 3740 mld or 24 per cent of waste-water undergoes some form of treatment before disposal.

10.66 It is estimated that about 1 lakh metric tonnes of solid waste is generated every day, of which the collection efficiency is 50 per cent to 90 per cent. Per capita waste generation in major cities ranges between 0.20 kg to 0.60 kg. The urban local bodies spend about Rs.500 to Rs.1500 per tonne for collection, transportation, treatment and disposal of solid waste.

10.67 To improve the water supply and sanitation facilities in the urban areas of the country, considerable investment is necessary over the next decade. The Working Group for the Ninth Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has estimated the requirement of funds for achieving population coverage of 100 per cent with water supply facilities and 75 per cent with sewerage and sanitation facilities at Rs.51284 crore. However, the Planning Commission could provide only Rs.18624 crore (which is about 2.17 per cent of the country's Plan outlay) only for the urban water supply and sanitation sector due to competing demands of the other sectors.

10.68 Table 10.15 lists access of population to drinking water and sanitation facilities in urban and rural areas. For rural water supply and sanitation central provision of Rs. 2100 crores has been made in 2000-01 (BE), registering an increase of 16.21 per cent over 1999-2000 (RE).

**Table 10.15**  
**Population Covered with Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities**  
 (Percentage coverage as on March 31)

Item/Area	1985	1990	1995	1998	1999 (P)
Drinking WaterSupply					
Rural	56.3	73.9	82.8*	92.5*	98.0*
Urban	72.9	83.8	84.3#	90.2 @	90.2@
SanitationFacilities					
Rural	0.7	2.4	3.6*	8.1*	9.0*
Urban	28.4	45.9	49.9 #	49.3@	49.3@

# As on 31.3.1993

\* With Government initiative only under CRSP, MNP, JRY and IAY. Latest authentic data i.r.t. coverage through private initiative is not known.

@ As on 31.3.1997.

Note: (i) Percentage coverage in respect of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation are based on Population covered in current year to corresponding 1991 census population.

(ii) Percentage coverage in respect of Urban Water Supply and Sanitation are based on Population covered in current year to corresponding current population.

Source: Ministries of Rural Development & Urban Development.