

## Rural water supply and sanitation

10.61 The provision of safe drinking water supply and sanitation facilities is a basic necessity of life and a crucial input in achieving the goal of “Health for All”. The Ninth Five Year Plan envisages provision of potable drinking water to every settlement in the country on a sustainable basis and the pursuit of all possible measures for the rapid expansion and improvement of sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas. Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation is a State subject and is the primary responsibility of the States. However, the Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the States through financial and technological inputs under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

### Rural Water Supply

10.62 The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), currently implemented through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, in the Department of Drinking Water Supply, has been in operation since 1972-73 to assist the States and UTs to accelerate the pace of coverage of safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities to the rural population. The programme focusses on the coverage of all rural habitations specially the un-reached ones, to ensure sustainability of the systems and sources, to tackle the problem of water quality and institutionalize water quality monitoring and surveillance through a Catchment Area Approach. This programme has recently been revamped with an aim to usher in reforms by institutionalizing community participation in the rural water supply sector so as to gradually replace the government oriented, centralised, supply driven and non-people participating programme by a people oriented decentralised, demand driven and community based one. Community participation is envisaged in implementing, managing and maintaining the rural drinking water supply system. The Central allocation for this programme has been enhanced from Rs.1,960 crore in 2000-01 to Rs.1,975 crore in 2001-02. An amount of Rs.1,637 crore has been released by the Centre and Rs.1,496 crore separately by

the States, upto end of January, 2002. The number of habitations covered are 26,803 against a target of 45,527 and the population covered is 10.5 million as against a target of 21.6 million for the period.

10.63 The Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana – Rural Drinking Water Programme which has been introduced as a specific component of the new initiative for achievement of sustainable human development at the village level, launched by the Government in 2000-01 in the form of the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). A minimum of 25 per cent of the total allocation for the component is to be utilised by the respective States/UTs on projects for water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water source in respect of Desert Development Programme (DDP) /Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) areas and other water stress /drought affected areas, and the balance 75 per cent utilised for tackling water quality and extension of coverage of habitations. During 2000-01, Rs.513 crore was released to the States. In 2001-02 Rs.636.7 crore has been allocated for this scheme and Rs.355 crore released as the first instalment.

10.64 The provision of potable drinking water to all villages has been identified as one of the priority tasks of the Government. At the beginning of the Ninth Plan there were about 85,000 Not Covered (NC), 391,000 Partially Covered (PC) and 140,000 Quality Problem (QP) habitations. The Ninth Plan seeks to cover all the NC, PC and QP habitations with safe drinking water facilities. In the first three years of the Ninth Plan, 62,000 NC and 242,000 PC habitations have been covered with water supply facilities. As on 1st February 2002, there are 1,257,532 Full Covered (FC) habitations, 147,241 Partially Covered (PC), with a balance of 17,891 habitations as Non-Covered (NC) ones. An area of concern is the re-emergence of uncovered villages in view of poor quality of construction, non involvement of people in design/operation/maintenance of assets and fast depletion of ground water levels leading to

problems of arsenic and fluoride content being enhanced. This necessitates addressing of the problems of control on groundwater withdrawal, water harvesting and soil and water conservation, and community participation for management of drinking water as an economic asset.

### **Rural Sanitation**

10.65 The Rural Sanitation Programme was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in 1986 to improve the quality of life of the rural poor and to provide privacy and dignity to the women. The revised Ninth Plan strategy envisages a shift from high subsidy to a low subsidy regime, a greater household involvement, intensive IEC campaigns, stress on software and emphasis on school sanitation. The Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP) was restructured in 1999 and aims at providing adequate sanitation facilities to the rural poor, generate awareness about health education, eradicate manual scavenging by converting all existing dry latrines into low cost sanitary latrines. Total Sanitation Campaigns (TSCs) are being implemented in phases in the country. The TLC envisages a synergistic interaction between the Government machinery, active NGO participation, intensive IEC, provision of an alternative delivery system and more flexible, demand oriented construction

norms. 58 pilot Districts have been identified by the States for implementation under phase I. This has been increased to 150 districts throughout the country. So far , 58 Project proposals under TSC from 1-4-99 to January, 2001 at a total cost of about Rs.606 crore have been approved.

10.66 The Rural School Sanitation Programme has been introduced as a major component and an entry point for wider acceptance by the rural masses. The Programme aims at constructions of toilets in all rural schools by the end of the Ninth Plan. The unit cost shall not exceed Rs.20,000 and the level of subsidy has been fixed in ratio of 60:30:10 for the Central, States and Panchayats /schools respectively. 10 per cent of the funds under TSC would be earmarked for school sanitation. Rs.135 crore have been allocated for CRSP by the Centre during 2001-02 up to September 2001 and Rs.6.8 crore under the Minimum Needs Programme(MNP) provision by the States. As against this, an amount of Rs.72.6 crore has been released by the Centre up to January, 2002.

10.67 The coverage of rural population with sanitation facilities was estimated to be about 17 per cent at the beginning of the Ninth Plan. This has increased by about 3 per cent or so during the Ninth Plan.