

## Rural water supply and sanitation

10.66 The objectives set for the rural water supply in the National Agenda for Governance (NAG) envisage provision of safe drinking water to all rural habitations by 2004. Safe drinking water and improved sanitation play a major role in the overall well being of the people, with a significant bearing on infant mortality rate, death rate, longevity and productivity. The poor, both in rural and urban areas, bear a disproportionately higher burden of the non-availability of water, as well as its poor quality. Moreover, 70-80 per cent of illnesses are related to water contamination and poor sanitation. Women and children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of water contamination. Seasonal disruption of water supply is common, especially during summer months.

10.67 As per Census of India 2001(excluding Jammu & Kashmir), the coverage of households having access to safe drinking water was 77.9 per cent comprising 90 per cent of urban households and around 73 per cent of rural households. Forty nine per cent of rural households were served by tube well/ hand pump, 22 per cent by wells and 24 per cent by taps.

10.68 To achieve the objective of providing safe drinking water in all rural habitations, programs like the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Drinking Water (ARWSP), the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana – Rural Drinking Water (PMGY-RDW) are being implemented. Considerable success has been achieved in meeting the drinking water needs of the rural population. With an investment of over Rs. 45,000 crore (March 31, 2004) considerable success has been achieved in meeting the drinking water needs of the rural population. There are more than 3.7 million hand pumps and 1.73 lakh piped water schemes installed in the rural areas. As on March 2004, 95 per cent of rural habitations have been fully covered (FC) and 5 per cent are partially covered (PC) and 0.4 per cent are not covered (NC) with drinking water facilities. The State wise coverage of habitations under Rural Water Supply is at Table 10.16.

10.69 The 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 and focuses on the coverage of all rural habitations, specially the un-reached ones, to ensure suitability of the systems and sources, to tackle the problem of water quality, and to institutionalize water quality monitoring and surveillance through a Catchments Area Approach.

10.70 It was felt that in order to sustain the huge infrastructure of water supply system already created, there is need to invest heavily on operation and maintenance (O&M). The total estimated cost for O&M at the present value would be around Rs.2,000 crore per year. It is a well-established fact that Government alone can not take up the responsibility of meeting the heavy cost of O&M. Peoples' involvement enhances not only the economic viability of O&M, but also leads to better upkeep and increases the life span of the system created. In order to install a sense of ownership amongst the community, their participation in planning, designing, implementing, operating and maintaining the rural water supply schemes is essential. People can choose schemes that are affordable and adoptable to them. With this goal, a reform process was initiated in 1999 to gradually replace the Government oriented, centralized and supply-driven programs by people-oriented, decentralized, demand-driven and community-based programmes. To begin with, this reform initiative was implemented in 67 selected pilot districts across the country. With the experience gained from the pilot districts, the program has been scaled up as Swajaldhara launched in December 2002, to cover the entire country. The special feature of Swajaldhara scheme is that this will be implemented, maintained and owned by the community. In these projects, the participation of the community is a major factor, with 10 per cent contribution made by the community and 90 per cent of the funds provided by the Government of India. It is envisaged that gradually the entire rural water supply sector will switch over to the Swajaldhara mode with prime focus being sustainability of the water supply systems. The

<b>Table 10.16: Status of coverage of habitations under rural water supply (till May 28, 2004)</b>				
<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Status of habitations</b>			
	<b>NC</b>	<b>PC</b>	<b>FC</b>	<b>Total</b>
Andhra Pradesh	0	732	69,000	69,732
Arunachal Pradesh	263	742	3,293	4,298
Assam*	305	11,625	58,625	70,555
Bihar	0	0	1,05,340	1,05,340
Chhattisgarh	0	0	50,379	50,379
Goa	3	29	363	395
Gujarat	14	569	29,686	30,269
Haryana	0	0	6,745	6,745
Himachal Pradesh	0	7,800	37,567	45,367
Jammu & Kashmir	925	2,829	7,430	11,184
Jharkhand	0	0	100,096	1,00,096
Karnataka	0	10,394	46,288	56,682
Kerala	0	7651	2112	9763
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1,09,489	1,09,489
Maharashtra	409	25,447	60,074	85,930
Manipur	0	86	2,705	2,791
Meghalaya	13	419	8,204	8,636
Mizoram	0	152	655	807
Nagaland	40	726	759	1,525
Orissa	0	0	1,14,099	1,14,099
Punjab	927	1,324	11,198	13,449
Rajasthan	2,974	0	90,972	93,946
Sikkim	0	198	1,481	1,679
Tamil Nadu	0	0	66,631	66,631
Tripura	0	0	7,412	7,412
Uttar Pradesh**	0	0	2,43,508	2,43,508
Uttaranchal	44	471	30,469	30,984
West Bengal	0	0	79,036	79,036
A&N Islands	0	110	394	504
Dadar Nagar Haveli	19	41	456	516
Daman& Diu	0	0	32	32
Delhi	0	0	219	219
Lakshadweep	0	10	0	10
Pondicherry	0	108	159	267
Chandigarh	0	0	18	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,936</b>	<b>71,463</b>	<b>13,44,894</b>	<b>14,22,293</b>

**NC: Not Covered, PC: Partially Covered, FC: Fully Covered.**  
\* In the case of Assam FC habitations include 114 habitations which are not in existence.  
\*\* In the case of Uttar Pradesh FC habitations include 125 habitations merged in urban areas.  
Source : Office of Registrar General of India.

paradigm shift will enable the Government to play the role of a facilitator rather than being the service provider.

10.71 The Central funding for the ARWSP was Rs 2,101 crore in 2002-03. The allocation has been stepped up to Rs 2,565 in 2003-04 and the amount released by the Centre is Rs. 2,565 crore during 2003-04. An area of concern is the re-emergence of uncovered villages in view of non-involvement of people in design/operation/maintenance of assets and fast depletion of ground water leading to

problems of enhanced arsenic and fluoride content. This underscores the necessity of addressing the issues of regulating ground water withdrawal, encouraging water harvesting, soil and water conservation, and community participation in management of drinking water as an economic asset.

10.72 The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States in the field of rural sanitation under the Central Rural Sanitation Program (CRSP). This program was

restructured in 1999 and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) introduced. The TSC envisages a synergised interaction between the Government, people and active NGO participation, besides intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, provision of an alternative delivery system and more flexible, demand-oriented construction norms. The revised Tenth Five Year Plan strategy envisages a shift from

allocation-based program to a demand-based project mode. Besides, the paradigm shift envisages a greater household involvement, intensive IEC campaigns, and stress on software and emphasis on school sanitation. Projects at a total cost of Rs.3,375 crore have been sanctioned for 350 identified districts. Under TSC, projects in 398 districts covering 29 States/UTs have so far been sanctioned with an approved outlay of Rs.3,744 crore.