

Urban water supply and sanitation

10.73 According to the Report of Census of India 2001, out of a total of 53.69 million urban households, 36.86 million households had tap water sources, with the remaining households procuring water from other sources such as hand pumps, and tube wells. Out of 36.86 million households with tap water source, 26.67 million had the source within the premises, 8.08 million near the premises and 2.09 million away from the premises. The Accelerated Urban Water Supply Program (AUWSP) was launched in 1993-94 for providing water supply to 2,151 towns with a population of less than 20,000 as per the 1991 Census. As on March 31, 2004, 1,037 towns at an estimated cost of Rs.1, 398 crore had been approved. As against this, the Government of India had released Rs.623 crore since launching of this program in March 1994.

10.74 The low cost sanitation scheme was envisaged to convert the existing dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines to totally eliminate manual scavenging. Under the scheme, a loan and subsidy is extended simultaneously by the HUDCO. The Central subsidy is routed through the HUDCO. Up to March 31, 2004, 866 schemes in 1,534 towns had been sanctioned at a project cost of Rs. 2,043 crore involving government subsidy of Rs. 568 crore and HUDCO loan of Rs. 776 crore for construction/ conversion of 51.70 lakh individual units and 3,966 community toilets. Rs 294 crore had been released to the States as government subsidy and Rs.479 crore had been released as loan from HUDCO. Five hundred and eighty six towns have been declared scavenger free. A National Action Plan for total eradication of manual scavenging by 2007 has been drawn up by the Planning Commission.