

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

10.62 Water is a State subject, and the schemes for providing drinking water facilities are implemented by the States. The Central Government supplements States' efforts through financial and technical support. The Eleventh Plan envisages provision of safe drinking water to all rural habitations. A major programme – "Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)" – is being implemented since 1972-73 to achieve this objective. With an investment of over Rs. 66,000 crore, more than 4.2 million hand pumps and 2.1 lakh piped-water schemes have been installed in the rural areas. On April 1, 2006, 97.02 per cent of rural habitations were fully covered, and 2.73 per cent were partially covered. However, the problem of lagging States (Table 10.11) and contamination due to arsenic, salinity, fluoride, iron, etc in 1,95,813 habitations needs to be addressed on a priority basis.

10.63 ARWSP, currently being implemented through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, aims at coverage of all rural habitations with population of 100 and above, especially the un-reached ones, ensuring sustainability of the systems and sources, and tackling the problem of water quality monitoring and surveillance through a catchment area approach. Adequate operation and maintenance (O&M) is critical for sustaining water supply systems already created. The annual estimated cost of O&M at Rs. 6,000 crore is heavy for the Government alone to bear. Peoples' involvement is envisaged not only to enhance the economic viability of O&M but also for better upkeep and enhanced life span of the system created. The Central allocation of funds for ARWSP has been stepped up from Rs. 2,900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4,060 crore in 2005-06 (RE) and further to Rs. 5,200 crore in 2006-07 (BE). A sectoral reform programme called "Swajaldhara" with partial capital cost sharing and full responsibility of O&M by users was taken up on a pilot basis to institutionalize community-based decentralized rural water supply schemes, and utilizing 20 per cent of ARWSP funds for this purpose.

Table 10.11 : Coverage of habitations under rural water supply (as on April 1, 2006)

State/UT	Status of habitations			
	NC	PC	FC	Total
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	69,732	69,732
Arunachal Pradesh	34	309	3,955	4,298
Assam	144	4,803	65,608	70,555
Bihar	0	0	105,340	105,340
Chattisgarh	0	0	50,379	50,379
Goa	0	5	390	395
Gujarat	0	0	30,269	30,269
Haryana	0	0	6,745	6,745
Himachal Pradesh	0	4,941	40,426	45,367
Jammu & Kashmir	606	2,210	8,368	11,184
Jharkhand	0	0	100,096	100,096
Karnataka	0	3,494	53,188	56,682
Kerala	0	5,871	3,892	9,763
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	109,489	109,489
Maharashtra	240	15,598	70,092	85,930
Manipur	0	0	2,791	2,791
Meghalaya	7	127	8,502	8,636
Mizoram	0	26	781	807
Nagaland	16	609	900	1,525
Orissa	0	0	114,099	114,099
Punjab	97	593	12,759	134,49
Rajasthan	1,877	0	92,069	93,946
Sikkim	0	0	1,679	1,679
Tamil Nadu	0	0	66,631	66,631
Tripura	0	0	7,412	7,412
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	243,508	243,508
Uttarakhand	26	203	30,745	30,974
West Bengal	0	0	79,036	79,036
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	39	465	504
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	19	492	516
Daman & Diu	0	0	32	32
Delhi	0	0	219	219
Lakshdweep	0	10	0	10
Pondicherry	0	37	230	267
Chandigarh	0	0	18	18
Total	3,052	38,894	1,380,337	1,422,283
Number that are uninhabited/ unpopulated/migrated/urbanised				381
Grand total				1,422,664
NC : Not covered, FC : Fully covered.		PC: Partially covered.		

10.64 The results of a fresh habitation survey conducted in 2003 indicate large incidence of slippage from 'fully covered' to 'partially/not covered' categories due to a number of factors, such as sources going dry, lowering of the ground water table, systems outliving their lives, and increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability. Drinking water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. Under Bharat Nirman, it has been envisaged to cover 55,067 uncovered habitations of Comprehensive Action Plan '99 and also to address the problem of slippage and water quality. On April 1, 2006, there were 41,946 uncovered habitations, 1,95,813 water quality affected habitations and approximately 2,52,060 slipped back habitations.

10.65 The Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), a CSS launched in 1986, was restructured in 1999 to introduce the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). TSC envisages synergized interaction between Government and people and active NGOs. It also incorporates intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns, provision of an alternate delivery system and more flexible, demand-oriented construction norms. TSC envisages a shift from an allocation-based programme to a demand-based project mode with greater household involvement, intensive IEC campaign and emphasis on school sanitation. TSC projects have been sanctioned in 568 districts with approved outlay of Rs. 9,969.33 crore.