

RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION

10.39 Water supply and sanitation is a critical determinant of public health outcomes, particularly in low and lower middle income countries. Drinking water supply schemes are implemented by the States. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Additional assistance is also available to States for Rural Water Supply Programme under various externally-aided projects.

10.40 The entire programme (ARWSP) was given a mission approach when the Technology Mission on Drinking Water Management, called the National Drinking Water Mission (NDWM) was introduced as one of the five Societal Missions in 1986. NDWM was renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) in 1991. ARWSP, is currently being implemented through the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. The prime objectives of the Mission are:

- To ensure coverage of all rural habitations especially to reach the unreached with access to safe drinking water.
- To ensure sustainability of the systems and sources; and
- To tackle the water quality problems in affected habitations.

10.41 With an investment of over Rs. 76,000 crore, considerable success has been achieved in meeting drinking water needs of the rural population. The status of State wise uncovered habitations (Table 10.16) under Bharat Nirman indicates the need for accelerated implementation in the lagging States. The problem of water quality on account of contamination due to arsenic, salinity, fluoride, iron, nitrate etc. in a large amount of habitations also needs to be addressed on a priority basis. Large incidence of slippage from “fully covered” to “partially/not covered” categories is due to a number of factors such as sources going dry; lowering of the ground water table; systems outliving their lifespan; and increase in population resulting in lower per capita availability. The Central allocation of funds for Rural Water Supply (ARWSP) has been stepped up from Rs.

Table 10.16

Number of habitations to be covered/addressed under Bharat Nirman-Rural Water Supply (as on April 1, 2007)

States/UT	UC	SB	QA
Andhra Pradesh	0	22271	1330
Arunachal Pradesh	169	2681	213
Assam	2456	10636	23170
Bihar	0	30545	19126
Chattisgarh	0	459	4956
Goa	4	0	0
Gujarat	0	2206	3370
Haryana	0	1470	189
Himachal Pradesh	2268	8287	0
Jammu & Kashmir	2407	2930	114
Jharkhand	0	13272	907
Karnataka	2604	0	17607
Kerala	5018	0	628
Madhya Pradesh	0	13753	2567
Maharashtra	11828	8827	10704
Manipur	0	0	0
Meghalaya	46	3018	11
Mizoram	26	119	0
Nagaland	570	138	0
Orissa	0	0	25364
Punjab	418	4334	1671
Rajasthan	1512	14228	23135
Sikkim	0	599	76
Tamil Nadu	0	29644	725
Tripura	0	81	1381
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	4682
Uttarakhand	175	5284	0
West Bengal	0	0	17337
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	8	0	26
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0
Lakshdweep	10	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	59
Chandigarh	0	0	0
Total	29534	174782	159348

**UC: UNCOVERED SB: SLIPPED BACK
QA: QUALITY AFFECTED**

Rs. 5,200 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 6,500 crore in 2007-08.

Drinking water supply under Bharat Nirman

10.42 Drinking water supply is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to be implemented in four

years from 2005-06 to 2008-09 for building rural infrastructure. During the Bharat Nirman period, 55,067 uncovered habitations and about 3.31 lakh slipped-back habitations were to be covered and 2.17 lakh quality-affected habitations were to be addressed. Tackling arsenic and fluoride contamination has been given priority. Under Bharat Nirman, in the first two years, impressive achievements have been made. In 2006-07, against the target to cover 73,120 habitations, 1,07,350 habitations have been covered. As on 1.4.2007, there are 29,534 uncovered habitations, 1,74,782 slipped-back habitations and 1,59,348 quality affected habitations. These habitations are proposed to be covered/addressed during the Bharat Nirman period.

Rural Sanitation

10.43 The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP), remodeled as the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), has the main objectives of bringing about an improvement in the general quality of life in rural areas, accelerate sanitation coverage, generate demand through awareness and health education, cover all schools and Anganwadis in rural areas with

sanitation facilities and promote hygiene behaviour among students and teachers, encourage cost effective and appropriate technology development and application, and endeavour to reduce water and sanitation related diseases.

10.44 TSC is currently operational in 578 districts with an outlay of Rs. 13,426 crore. The thrust areas for TSC are construction of individual household latrines, coverage of rural schools, solid waste management, provision of revolving fund for Self Help Groups & Cooperative Societies, School Sanitation & Hygiene Education (SSHE), and co-ordination with other departments. The sanitation coverage in 1981 was only 1 per cent which increased to 11 per cent in 1991. By the year 2001, the access to toilets improved to 21.9 per cent of the rural population. However, in the last few years, with the launch of demand-based TSC, there has been tremendous improvement in rural sanitation coverage in the country, which has reached 50 per cent. In the success of TSC, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have played a key role in further acceleration of sanitation coverage. However, in a few States, there is a need to improve the implementation so that goal of total sanitation by the year 2012 is achieved.