

CHAPTER 8

POINT 7: CLEAN DRINKING WATER

8.1 Clean drinking water is a basic necessity of life. Supply of clean drinking water in the rural areas has always received highest priority from the Government. A Technology Mission on Drinking Water called the 93National Drinking Water Mission=94 (NDWM) was launched in 1986, which subsequently was rechristened the 93Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission" (RGNDWM) in 1991. The three key objectives are:

- (i) providing safe drinking water to all villages,
- (ii) assisting local communities to maintain sources of safe drinking water in good condition and
- (iii) giving special attention for water supply to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

8.2 To achieve the objectives many programmes like Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister=92s Gramodaya Yojana- Rural Drinking Water (PMGY-RDW) have been implemented to resolve drinking water problem in rural habitations. With effect from 1.4.2002, the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana-Rural Drinking Water (PMGY-RDW) has been transferred to the Planning Commission. These programmes also give importance to rainwater harvesting, sustainability of sources and community participation. The Central Government has achieved considerable success in meeting drinking water needs of the rural population over the years. 94.36 per cent of rural habitations have been fully covered (FC) with drinking water facilities; 5.16 per cent are partially covered(PC).

8.3 A major shift in approach has taken place in the Water Supply Sector. Sectoral Reform approach has been adopted in 67 districts in the country. The hardware support is supplemented by other support services like social mobilisation, capacity building, Information Education and Communication (IEC), Human Resource Development (HRD) and Management Information System (MIS). These reforms are being implemented in 67 pilot districts across the country on an experimental basis. This programme is being expanded as *Swajaldhara*, which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 25th December 2002 for Drinking Water Supply. The special feature of *Swajaldhara* scheme is greater participation of community. In these projects, the participation of community is a major factor, which ensure planning, implementation, operation and maintenance.10% contribution is made by the community and 90% funds are provided by the Government of India. In case of SC and ST habitations, community contribution is at 5%. The rural water supply is a state subject. However, recognizing the importance of providing safe drinking water in rural habitations, Govt. of India has been providing financial assistance to State Governments.

8.4 Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) adopts an integrated approach so that conservation and augmentation of water sources would be interrelated with rural water supply scheme with a view to providing sustainable supply of safe drinking water to rural population. The Mission seeks to provide low cost supply of 40 litres per family of safe drinking water to rural areas. Annual Targets for 2003-2004, for Rural Water Supply Programme was to cover 111,051 number of villages/habitations against which the total achievement was 31,249 which was 28.14% of targets. Information coverage of habitations upto March,2004 have not been furnished by many states as yet. Given below are the targets and achievement figures in respect of Rural Water Supply Programme for the period April, 2003-March, 2004. The overall performance under the programme has been "Very Good" for the States of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Pondicherry. The performance of rest of the States and UTs has been "Poor". The programme has helped all sections of the society including SCs and STs. The details are as per *Annexure-8.1*

Target and Achievement of Rural Water Supply for the year 2003-2004

Item	Unit	Target	*Achievement
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Coverage of Villages/Habitations	Nos.	111,051	31,249
2. Population coverage (Total)	Lakh	-	96.351
3. Population coverage (SC)	Lakh	-	17.282
4. Population coverage (ST)	Lakh	-	11.686

* As per information available from StatesGovt./UT Administration