

SURVEY ON STATUS OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN RURAL HABITATIONS

For the effective implementation of Rural Water Supply Programme, availability of basic information is an essential pre-requisite. Centrally sponsored Rural Drinking Water Supply programmes intend to support the State/UT's Governments in extending coverage in rural areas as well as to tackle water quality problems. The Statistical information about the success or failure of the programme can be assessed either by conducting census or sample surveys or obtaining data through implementing agencies. The first nation wide rural habitation survey to assess the rural drinking water supply coverage status was conducted through the State Governments in the year 1991. The results were revalidated during 1993-94, verified in 1996-97 and updated in the year 1999-2000.

Coverage of habitations is a dynamic concept and the reasons for fully covered habitations slipping back into NC/PC may be due to a number of factors like :

- sources going dry or lowering of the ground water table.
- sources becoming quality affected.
- systems outliving their lives.
- systems working below rated capacity due to poor operation and maintenance.
- increase in population resulting into lower per capita availability.
- emergence of new habitations.

A fresh survey was conducted during 2003-04 based on 2001 census to ascertain the exact position of the status of the rural habitations with regard to availability of drinking water , which would form the basis for developing future strategies for the programme.

The objective of the survey was to ascertain reliable information (a) on the status of drinking water supply in rural habitations, and rural schools, (b) on the water sources tested for quality problem, details of existing safe drinking water supply system in such quality affected habitations.

Status survey 2003 was completed in the state & the result was submitted to Govt. of India. Validation of Survey result was being done by IIPA, New Delhi. First phase of validation survey has been completed.

LEFT OUT NC/PC habitations in the State as on 1.4.05.

As per CAP 1999, the State of Meghalaya has 12 nos. of NC habitations & 233 nos. of PC habitations remaining to be covered as on 1.4.05, out of the total habitations of 8636 nos. The balance 8389 nos. were fully covered habitations. The above figure however does not take into consideration FC/PC habitations falling back to PC/NC category due to various reasons.

As per the directives of Govt. of India, Status Survey based on 2001 census was conducted during 2003-04. This was subsequently validated by IIPA, New Delhi. The findings after validation is as under:-

Sl no.	Type	Number of habitations
1	Not Covered(NC)	2285
2	Partially Covered(PC)	2849
3	Fully Covered(FC)	4192
	Total habitations	9326

Since the survey 2003, some more habitations have been covered & as on 1.4.05, based on the above data of IIPA, there exists 2036 nos. of NC habitations & 2661 nos. of PC habitations, which are required to be provided with adequate safe water supply. Apart from this, there are about 2600 uncovered LP schools as on 1.4.05 which is also required to be covered with safe drinking water supply. The number of Iron Affected Habitations as on 1.4.05 is 124 nos.