

Water Supply and Sanitation

59. Water Supply and Sanitation are important basic needs of the people in both rural and urban areas which enhance their productive efficiency. Schemes for supply of drinking water in rural areas are formulated and implemented by the States under the State sector Minimum Needs Programme. Central assistance is, however, being provided under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme with 100 per cent grants-in-aid to a matching provision

TABLE 10.13				
Population Covered with Drinking Water and Sanitation Facilities				
(Percentage coverage as on March 31)				
Item/Area	1985	1990	1995	1997*
				(Estimated)
Drinking Water Supply				
Rural	56.3	73.9	82.80	86.74
Urban	72.9	83.8	84.33#	85.00@
Sanitation Facilities				
Rural	0.7	2.4	3.59	6.37*
Urban	28.4	45.9	49.91#	50.00@
#	As on 31.3.1993			
*	With Government initiative under CRSP, MNP, JRY and IAY			
@	Estimated figure, 1996			
Source:	Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.			

being made by the State Governments under MNP. The budgetary provision of Rs.1095 crore in 1996-97 (RE) has been enhanced to Rs.1302 crore in 1997-98 (RE). Under the National Drinking Water Mission renamed as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, a sum of Rs.856 crore was released upto January,1998.

60. The scheme of rural sanitation is aimed at supplementing the efforts made under different central and state sector programmes for improving sanitary facilities in the rural areas with the overall objective of improving the quality of life in the rural areas. A total number of 1,79,284 and 52,540 sanitary latrines were constructed for SCs/STs during 1996-97. A sum of Rs.100 crore has been provided during 1997-98 (RE) as against Rs.60 crore in the budget for 1996-97 (RE).

61. Due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, the challenge of providing basic amenities is mounting. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme is aimed to provide safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities to the entire population of towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census) in the country. As on 31.12.1997, water supply schemes had been approved for 254 towns in various States which account for 11.8% of the total number of towns having a population upto 20,000. Table 10.13 gives percentage coverage of population with drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas.