



Editorial

Perspectives on the role of public representatives in ensuring water and sanitation services to all

Dear Friends,

The last issue of WaterDrops was dedicated to the spirit of citizens' action in ensuring accountability in the provisioning of water and sanitation. Building on that, this issue looks at the role of public representatives at the highest levels in ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation to all. It also narrates some relevant experience on how civil society organisations can engage with democratically elected public representatives.

Just as an ordinary citizen in Jharkhand, who has to be made aware of his /her entitlements, many a times a first or second timer Member of Parliament (MP) also

needs to be made aware of his/her role in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. More importantly, MPs need to be helped and supported in playing this role effectively. The issue of drinking water is firmly placed in the mainstream electoral political discourse and yet access to safe and sustainable drinking water for all in both rural and urban India remains a distant dream. Needless to say, sanitation for all remains a bigger challenge. Some of you will have had a first hand experience of this helplessness expressed by our leaders when you talk to them about pressing issues of lack of access to basic amenities.

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Development professionals increasingly recognize the importance of political will and have a new-found willingness to work directly with public leaders.

As one article in this issue points out, there are several districts in north and eastern part of India, where sanitation targets as set out in the Total Sanitation Campaign are unlikely to be met in the near future. Such pathetic conditions need to capture the complete attention of people's representatives such as the MPs. And while focussed advocacy for desirable policies should continue, civil society organisations need to look at novel methods of educating our leaders, many of whom do feel the need to plug knowledge gaps and do welcome expertise from diverse quarters on persistent and large scale developmental problems.

WaterAid has, over the last one year, supported Democracy Connect, an organisation working exclusively on ensuring access to better knowledge and human resources to elected representatives. During this period efforts

were made at understanding how MPs have been raising water and sanitation issues in Parliament and how they can be supported with information.

The potential scale of impact is immense, as each MP on an average represents a population of about 20 lakh (2 million). Continuous interaction with MPs can result in their enhanced understanding of development issues based on principles of equity, growth, democracy, human rights, human dignity and an open and accountable government. This can also lead to a possible mainstreaming of development concerns into key policy instruments. The legislators, it is hoped, armed with the knowledge made available to them by various resource persons and practitioners in different sectors, presenting different strands of thoughts on issues, would then be better equipped to influence policy, legislation and perform their monitoring role in a more efficient, effective and democratic manner. This issue of WaterDrops describes the first steps in this direction.

The Editorial Team
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Surprising as it may seem, the reality is that research and information support and access to professional human resources to legislators is woefully inadequate in India. Even the best intentioned of them find it extremely difficult to channelise the knowledge, financial and human resources available in the country within civil society and the government for achievement of widely shared developmental objectives.

Interestingly in several countries the state plays a main role in providing support to its elected representatives through allowances for professional staff. Various think tanks largely functioning in the non governmental space provide the necessary depth to the policy dialogue. The Parliament Secretariat does provide library service to our MPs. On an average, the Parliament library responds to about 5000 requests from 780 MPs in a year. In comparison, the Congressional Research Service in US handles 800,000 requests annually. The political parties hardly provide any learning environment to come to grips with enormous developmental challenges that the country is facing.

Further, policy making in India as also in most developing countries is characterized by executive dominance (bureaucracy and elected executive). Most vocal advocacy groups/research institutions focus attention on educating, informing and influencing the executive.

Public representatives, who form the fulcrum of the legislative arm of the nation have, by and large, been out of such forms of interaction. While the general problems associated with politics and perhaps many politicians has been the primary cause of this disconnect, there is an urgent and critical need to engage with people directly responsible for the affairs of the nation, who legislate, influence policy, build priorities for governments and in many senses, represent people in forums and

matters that are out of reach of many other people involved in development.

Before civil society organisations begin to engage with Parliamentarians and not just the elected executives, it is important to provide answers to some key questions:

What is the working environment of MPs and what are their functions?

The MPs operate in politically and emotionally charged environments, where it becomes difficult to make objective assessments. Hence they usually end up taking rhetorical or standard party positions or rely on anecdotal narrations/ random experiences on issues of importance. There is no immediate political dividend for an MP for doing policy work well, as neither political parties nor the voters seem to reward it. Further the re-election rate for Indian MPs is also very low at around 0.5 percent.

Populist agendas for the poor mar serious understanding and action

As Mr. Sandeep Dikshit, MP (East Delhi) put it, "The more obvious and popular development matters such as literacy, AIDS, affirmative action for socially and economically disadvantaged communities and human rights have a constituency of support amongst legislators. However, the nuances and details of issues, the ways and manner of proceeding on these fronts and the many emergent concerns are almost absent from such set of concerns since there is hardly any in-depth grasp of such issues. Further, even in the above mentioned areas that concern legislators and senior public policy actors, the information and knowledge they draw upon regarding government policy and plans of action are by and large restricted to what bureaucrats or select lobby groups provide."



An MP broadly performs the following functions:

- ▶ Legislation of national level bills, help in making/approving policies in Parliament such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and the Right to Information Act (RTI).
- ▶ Policy and developmental level work in his/her constituency, such as problems faced by informal sector migrant workers or urban planning and agricultural indebtedness, amongst others.
- ▶ Budget oversight to ensure that the executive carries on the work assigned to them properly and the government money is spent well.

How much do the MPs really read?

A common grouse of civil society is that MPs are not accessible. When organizations send their annual reports to MPs, the first port of call is usually not the MP. The personal assistant/personal secretary does the first round of screening and if s/he deems it important enough only then does it go to the MP. So often the voluminous report prepared by the lobbying/advocacy group is consigned to the dustbin without the MP ever having seen it. The MP usually has considerable correspondence to deal with anyway.

Anything which is brief, low on jargon and written in a language that the MP is comfortable with, is likely to be noticed



- ▶ Case work such as attending to resolve issues at constituency level, redressal of grievances in case of civic amenities, emergency admissions in hospitals, school admissions and transfers of government officials.
- ▶ Attending social/religious functions and inaugurations.

two pages is unlikely to be read. While the voluminous report can also go, it is imperative that a brief one or two page synthesis of the report which succinctly captures the major messages that the organization seeks to articulate goes out. Many publications that are sent to the MPs are in a language that they are

uncomfortable with - English. They would rather read something in the vernacular or the national language. South based MPs, however may still be comfortable with English.

What is the best time to meet MPs?

The MPs are present in Delhi for upto 100 days in a year spread over the budget, monsoon and winter sessions. They also make the trips to Delhi by virtue of being members of standing and consultative committees. Our experience suggests that there is no fixed time to meet MPs but the slot of 8-9 am when they prepare to go to Parliament is probably the best time to meet them. Excluding the high profile MPs, most of them are also free in the evenings after Parliament is adjourned for that day of the session. Most of the MPs are also more accessible in their constituencies where the partner NGOs or regional offices could touch base with them in case they need to share locally relevant information.

How should messages of the advocacy campaigns be transmitted to them? How open are they to meeting civil society?

Every MP is different and thus strategies for reaching out to them need to be fine-tuned keeping in mind their requirements. An MP who is involved in defence matters and the war against terrorism, for example, may not have interest in meeting an activist/ advocacy organization pontificating on water and sanitation. Rarely would he trade defence with hygiene. However MPs do value a parallel source (over and above

their bureaucratic and political sources) of credible information about issues of the poor and marginalised.

There are common areas where irrespective of the cause, MPs will find common ground on issues. With time they outgrow their constituencies and may develop a taste for regional, national and international issues. However, in suggesting an alternative, one must be prepared to offer him/her tangible solutions to mitigate the problem and offer real alternatives rather than merely presenting the problems. In case of an audience with an MP, it helps to have people from partner NGOs who are actually soiling their hands at the grassroots accompanying the head office team.

In addition any advocacy organisation which wishes to be taken seriously should make efforts to dispel the usual stereotypes associated with well funded NGOs.

What are the various methods used by civil society to influence MPs?

Several options can be explored. These include:

- ▶ Providing written information such as brochures, leaflets, booklets, annual reports on the work that a particular agency is doing;
- ▶ Sending periodic briefings/newsletters;
- ▶ Providing reports on research conducted on a specific issue;
- ▶ Meeting with the MP to discuss a specific issue;
- ▶ Lobbying with MPs who are part of relevant standing committees;



“Younger first time MPs like me, are more interested in doing work in our respective constituencies. Any knowledge network which can focus on the functioning of various government ministries or schemes would be very useful. I do have good information network at the constituency level which provides me inputs on political and development aspects of my constituency. However in certain aspects of my constituency, I am looking for sustainable solutions. These are drinking water for humans and animals, livelihoods and waste water recycling.”

Jitin Prasad, MP, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- ▶ Inviting MPs to attend workshops organised around the issue in question;
- ▶ Inviting MPs to attend rallies organised for the people in whose interests the NGO is working;
- ▶ Sending questions (formulated by NGOs) meant to be asked in the parliament by the MP;
- ▶ Sending tailor made calendars, diaries, notebooks around festivals/events such as New Year;
- ▶ Raising an issue in the mass media is first to attract the attention of MPs;
- ▶ Organising policy meets with MPs;
- ▶ Creating a Parliamentarians' Forum on specific issue for example, the Speakers Forum on Water or Forum on AIDS; or,

How can one influence the allocation of MPLADS funds?

MPs generally do not encourage discussion/suggestions on how to use their MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) funds. The current political reality is that most of these funds are deployed largely based on political considerations. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended the abolition of the MPLADS and the Members of the Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALADS) on the grounds that these schemes "seriously erode the notion of separation of powers, as the legislator directly becomes the executive." It is also important to understand some of the key

features of the scheme, as it is not a very well designed scheme. Also, an MP can typically influence much more resources than the MPLADS funds.



- ▶ MPLADS funds have to be spent only on creation of physical assets: no revenue or recurring expenditure is allowed under this head. Detailed guidelines are available at <http://mplads.nic.in/>

- ▶ The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency, is Rs.

2 crore (Rs.20 million). Lok Sabha Members can recommend works for their respective constituencies.

- ▶ Drafting bills either through a consultative process or through research work and then garnering support for it amongst MPs or the political parties.

- ▶ Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts as they may choose in the State they represent.

- ▶ Nominated Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works for implementation in one or more districts anywhere in the country.
- ▶ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the scheme.
- ▶ A department in the state or the Union Territory is designated as the nodal department with the overall responsibility of supervision, monitoring and coordination of the MPLADS implementation with the districts and other line departments.
- ▶ The Government of India informs the state nodal department about the MPLADS funds release to the district authorities. The district authorities report the status of MPLADS implementation to the Government of India and state nodal department.
- ▶ The district authority gets the MPLADS implemented through local self governments or through government agencies. In some cases, the district authority engages reputed NGOs for execution of MPLADS works.

The Speaker's (Lok Sabha) Forum on Water

The Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management was constituted by the Speaker, Lok Sabha in consultation with the Chairman, Rajya Sabha on 12 August, 2005. It has 31 MPs as its members besides the ministers of relevant ministries.

The functions of the Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management are to:

- (a) Identify problems relating to water and make suggestions/recommendations for consideration and appropriate action by the Government/organisations concerned;
- (b) Identify the ways of involving Members of Parliament in conservation and augmentation of water resources in their respective States/Constituencies;
- (c) Organise seminars/workshops to create awareness for conservation and efficient management of water.

This could be a good forum for civil society organisations to engage with MPs. The Convenor of the forum can be contacted at:

Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiriya, MP (Rajkot, Gujarat)

Convenor,

The Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation & Management

78, Lodhi Estate,

New Delhi - 110 003

Tels. (011) 24635522, 9868180576 (M)

drkathiriya@sansad.nic.in



Where do water and sanitation issues figure in the Parliament?

An analysis of questions raised in the 14th Lok Sabha¹ (from May 2004 to December 2006) on issues of water and sanitation

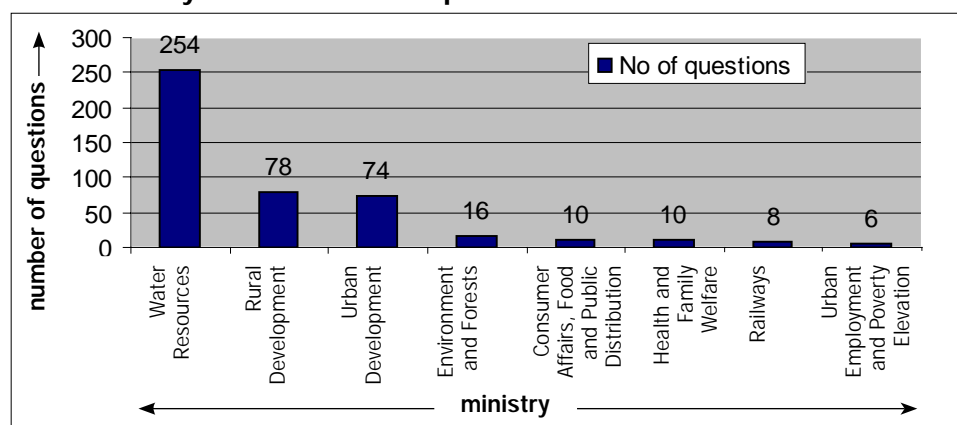
The power to raise questions in the Parliament is considered one of the most important instruments in the hands of elected representatives to monitor and keep a check on the executive. WaterAid in collaboration with Democracy Connect has put together a compendium of questions raised by MPs in the current Lok Sabha (LS). It is a thematic, region specific (wherever applicable) and ministry-wise compilation and analysis of issues raised as Starred² and Unstarred³ questions in the Lok Sabha, within the broad subject space of drinking water and sanitation.

How is the 14th Lok Sabha Questions' compendium on WATSAN issues useful?

- ▶ In tracking a single MP and trying to understand what kind of issues s/he chooses to raise at the highest level of our democratic structure;
- ▶ For analysis of issues in WATSAN that the political process is throwing - up from a region;
- ▶ For urgently addressing the issue, based on the MPs understanding of the WATSAN sector;
- ▶ For using the Forum of Parliament for raising any issue of urgent public importance; and,
- ▶ In trying to find the official data/position of the Government of India on any particular WATSAN issue.

The analysis mirrors the issues both at the constituency as well as the policy level that the elected representative find useful enough to be raised in the Parliament. Between May 2004 and December 2006, 478 questions related to WATSAN were raised by 201 MPs. The maximum number of questions are related to drinking water (13%), followed by ground water (12%), inter basin water sharing (10%), quality of water (8%) and central approval and assistance (7%). While the questions have been addressed to 18 ministries, the maximum number of questions have been addressed to the Water Resources Ministry. The number of questions addressed to rural and urban development ministries are almost equal. The following graph gives the top eight ministries for whom questions were directed.

Ministry-wise number of questions asked in LS on WATSAN



¹ Lok Sabha refers to the lower house of the Indian Parliament .

² A Starred Question is one to which a member desires an oral answer from the Minister in the House and is required to be distinguished by him/her with an asterisk. Answer to such a question may be followed by supplementary questions by members.

³ An Unstarred Question is one to which written answer is desired by the member and is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by the Minister. Thus it is not called for oral answer in the House and no supplementary question can be asked thereon.

While the majority of questions are of a national nature (316), a few states/UTs, especially Delhi have dominated the questions. The following chart gives the details. Both the questions and answers are extremely repetitive. To illustrate, 6 MPs have asked a similar question on desalination and the same answer has been given to all of them. The same data on ground water status has been provided in answer to about 58 questions expressing concern on extraction of ground water. On many issues raised by MPs, the standard response is "Rural drinking water is a State subject. State Governments are empowered to plan, sanction, execute and implement Swajaldhara projects from the allocation made under Swajaldhara." Sometimes this is supplemented by a comprehensive list of central schemes.

Questions related to schemes such as Total Sanitation Scheme and Swajaldhara generally evince a standard three to five year summary of targets achieved and financial allocations made with no critical evaluation either from the MP who has raised the question or from the Minister who is answering it, of how the scheme is faring on the ground. The data provided is also generally available in public domain.

Some points:

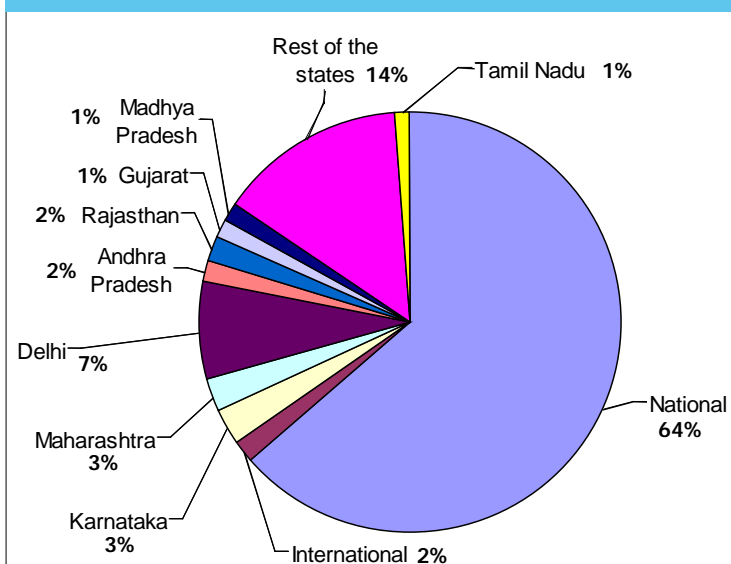
- ▶ 6% questions were asked on sanitation issues including questions on TSC.
- ▶ Issue of access to water and sanitation to slums is almost completely unrepresented (2 questions on Delhi slums).
- ▶ Only 2% questions were related to issues of community participation and role of NGOs in WATSAN.
- ▶ 7% questions related were to specific queries on the status of a proposal pending at central level. So the answers usually give the status of these

specific projects, or explain the various schemes available with the central government under which proposals from state governments are admissible. These answers are also extremely repetitive.

- ▶ 5% questions were on External Assistance from bodies like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- ▶ 1% questions seek government's stand on privatisation of water.
- ▶ Relatively fewer questions were raised on concerns about water scarcity (1% or 6 questions), though about 3% questions sought data on annual utilizable water availability.

In conclusion, the analysis indicates the need to provide more information to the Parliamentarians so that they understand the seriousness of the extent and impact of lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. It also indicates the direction and possible policy course corrections that the government may need to take in its second half of the five year term. With sustained lobbying and advocacy efforts civil society organisations can help the legislators to significantly raise the overall quality of the debate in Parliament and to help them articulate the emerging concerns arising from the grassroots.

Geographical Spread of Issues Raised by MPs on WATSAN





NREGA, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, was enacted in 2006. One year into its existence, it has received attention from policy-makers and activists alike. It has caught the imagination of communities living on the fringes. Never before has India had a legislative Act that recognised “work” as a right. It is an Act, having the workman at the centre, with 100 days of employment guaranteed and aimed at stopping distress migration! While there’s a long way to go in terms of appropriate implementation and de facto guaranteeing the works, this is the first serious attempt by the Government of India to recognize the centrality of works for the marginalized.

Eleven types of works are recognised \ listed by NREGA wherein restoration of water-bodies for soil enhancement ranks at the top. The plans for the works need to be done by the communities at the village level and submitted to the Panchayat Officer/ Secretary and in turn this gets submitted to the Mandal/Block office. Works are sanctioned on the basis of this submission and wages are released to the post office account of the household undertaking the work. Failing works provision, it is required

to provide the worker’s unemployment compensation too.

Though, water bodies restoration tops the list of NREGA activities, a pertinent question asked by stakeholders working in the drinking water supply and sanitation (WATSAN) section is – can NREGA be integrated with WATSAN? Initial experience of activists suggest otherwise. Besides the moot question is what are the levels/ platforms of integration. Some of the ideas discussed are listed below:

1. Involvement of the communities

- Both WATSAN schemes and NREGA are demand driven
- In the available public space through social audits and monitoring i.e. monitoring service and quality of service

2. Works Integration

- Labour component of WATSAN works especially works for building community facilities
- Stand-alone interventions with labour intensive components such as environmental sanitation components like drainage, market/community sanitation facilities
- All the water works, which feed into land productivity enhancement like pond desiltation, watersheds, labour-intensive-rain water harvesting structures et al.

3. Institutional Integration

- Both programmes are under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- Sanitation and drinking water facilities at work sites

The NREGA – WATSAN integration also raises some important issues as given below, that needs deliberation and experimentation for a conclusive debate.

NREGA Statistics National Overview as on March 2007

Employment Demanded by HH: 1.82 Crore
Employment provided to HH : 1.78 Crore

Person days	[in Crore]:	
Total:	73.31	
SCs:	17.99	[24.54%]
STs:	28.08	[38.31%]
Women:	30.61	[41.76%]
Others:	27.24	[37.16%]

Total available fund [including OB for current year]: [in Crore]: Rs. 11812.75
Expenditure: 6758.1 Crore
Total works taken up: 7.16 Lakh
Works completed: 2.99 Lakh
Works in progress: 4.17 Lakh

Source: Ministry of Rural Development (www.nrega.nic.in)
1 Lakh = 100,000; 1 Crore = 10 million

¹ The article is based on the author’s submission of ideas in an NREGA Activists’ conference held at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh in June 2007. The conference was organized by Upadhi Hami Hakku Amalu Committee and was attended by NREGA activists from all the 18 districts of Andhra Pradesh and some from other states.

1. The integration dialogue needs to be initiated with the Rural Development Department at national and state level.
2. NREGA works at the centre and community planning as the trigger is much more rights oriented and has immense possibility for public participation which is not the case with WATSAN. Activists were scared that integration might shrink the in-built public space of NREGA.
3. Critics argue that with years of WATSAN intervention progress is unsatisfactory. Would NREGA- WATSAN integration not be a threat to a progressive right based employment guarantee scheme? While both the WATSAN & NREGA are demand driven, for WATSAN, the demand side is low & the supply side response is even lower. Should NREGA take a chance with WATSAN then?
4. Housing WATSAN in NREGA works was opposed by practitioners because it has more material component and there may be a contradiction in the way two programmes are envisioned. For example, 60:40 ratio of labour and material is what NREGA allows yet the ideal situation for NREGA will be 90:10 i.e. 90% labour component and 10% material. However, WATSAN works are nowhere near 60:40 or 90:10 and with introduction of more materials comes the prospect of intervention of contractors and corruption. It is believed that since NREGA is focusing on employment guarantee, the less material component and the less the conditionality associated with it, better the prospects for assuring/generating employment.
5. Only works possible are for the water resources management initiatives specifically targeted at land productivity enhancement and with more than 60 per cent labour component which NREGA anyway recognizes.
6. Even the labour component of WATSAN that precedes constructions should not be recognized as there is a threat of incomplete works with labour bit finished and incessant wait for material and departmental response ensuing still!
7. Social audit and community monitoring is the best way forward since WATSAN schemes are a vortex of corruption and public eye is the only way to combat it.

Social audits are a vibrant space for convergence of many social programmes and NREGA is instrumental in creating that space (see box below). While the Act makes it compulsory to have social audits, governments like Andhra Pradesh have done a very progressive interpretation of the same challenging the remit beyond just community audits but building capacities for these audits, paying for the training cost and also the transaction cost of the audit. With a dedicated social audit department, the message is clear, this is no lip-service to transparency and that the government means business. Transparency is serious business. The challenge is to increase remit of the department and process beyond NREGA to every social security programme and to visibly demonstrate its autonomy too. This is the field on which the citizens will be negotiating all their programmes and participating in governance as well. This form of integration is here to stay.



Social Audit

“As part of social audit in Dungarpur district in Rajasthan, large-scale verification of “muster rolls” uncovered little evidence of significant fudging. According to official data, NREGA expenditure in Dungarpur (a relatively small district) is already well over Rs. 100 crore. Almost every rural household has a job card, and the average job cardholder had already worked for about 70 days under the NREGA by the end of January. This is an unprecedented achievement in the history of social security in India, which points to the enormous potential of the NREGA as a tool of ‘inclusive growth’.

Jean Drèze, The Hindu, March 9, 2007

Frequently asked questions on Indian Parliament and Parliamentarians



An attempt to answer how to engage with MPs and to access information about the Parliament. It is organised in a frequently asked questions format for easy access.

How do I find out who is the MP representing my district/constituency/work area?

The list of sitting members, which can be searched by state, name, party, constituency is available both on Lok Sabha (LS) and Rajya Sabha (RS) websites

Lok Sabha <http://164.100.24.208/ls/lsmember/whoswho.asp>

Rajya Sabha <http://rajyasabha.nic.in/whoswho/whoswho.html>

The Election Commission websites (including state specific websites) also give these details.
http://archive.eci.gov.in/Affidavits/Affidavits_fs.htm
<http://www.eci.gov.in/Links/Links.asp>

Where can I find relevant personal information about MPs?

Biographical details about MPs are available on the LS and RS websites. Once a member's page has been located, details in the adjoining table are available a click away.

How can I contact MPs?

On a member's home page his/her contact details including mobiles and e-mail addresses are available. One may have to make repeated efforts to contact them though! While one must also shed any inhibitions one might have in meeting the "high and the mighty" one must take the puncturing of egos by their elected representatives with unfailing regularity in their stride.

How does one find out as to when the Parliament is in session?

Typically the Parliament has three sessions in a year totalling to about 100 days in a year. These are:

Budget Session (done in two parts):	February end to March end and after a recess the session reconvenes around mid April and goes on till mid May.
Monsoon session:	July end to August end
Winter Session:	December beginning to December last week

The Secretary General of the respective houses announces the session dates and the information are generally well publicized in the media.

How can I find out what is being discussed in the Parliament on a particular day of any session?

Both the houses come out with the list of business available at

Lok Sabha <http://164.100.24.230/Webdata/datalshom001/today/Today.htm>

Rajya Sabha <http://164.100.24.167/lob/lob-main.html>

Educational profile of MPs representing WAI project districts

In WAI project areas, 74% of the total 35 MPs (for 3 MPs, data is not available) are graduates and above. Out of total 543 MPs in 14th Lok Sabha, only 256 (47%) are graduates and above.

The bifurcation of the educational qualification of MPs representing WAI project area is as follows:

1. No. of MPs who are at least graduates	26
• No. of MPs who are post graduates or above	13
• No. of PhD holders	3
• No. of MPs who are LLB	9
2. No. of MPs who have studied less than or equal to 10+2	6
3. No. of MPs for whom data is not available	3

How to access Loksabha's question Bank?

RETRIEVAL FORM (LOK SABHA XIV)

Use + as word separator

Search:

Matches on: Exact word/phrase Any word (Or) All words(And)

Search on: Full text Title [SEARCHHELP](#)

Specific Search options

Member:

Ministry:

Answer Date: From To Question Type:

Lok Sabha&Session: From To Question No:

Sort by: Ministry Answer date Member Name Question Type Question No

The live proceedings of the LS and RS which has to be compulsorily carried by cable networks are beamed to households countrywide on LOKSABHA TV and RAJYASABHA TV.

Where can I find copy of the bills?

Some but not all bills are available in a soft format on the LS (www.loksabha.nic.in) and RS (www.rajyasabha.nic.in) websites. For e.g. <http://parliamentofindia.nic.in/ls/bills/billsmain.htm>. However the relevant ministries and the law ministries usually have the draft of the bills on their websites.

Further when the bills are under consideration in any of the houses and certain amendments are being discussed, it is possible that amendments are not made available on the internet. In such cases it is best to approach MPs for their copies of the amendments and bills. Both LS and RS secretariats send copies of amendments and bills to MPs in advance.

Is the written record of what all is being discussed in the two houses available to public?

Unedited documentation of all the discussion in the Parliament is put up within 24-48 hrs, which is later edited and put as synopsis of debates for e.g. <http://164.100.24.208/ls/synopsis/synopsis.asp>

Where can we get more information on the standing committees? And other committees?

Both LS and RS websites have details on the standing committees including details on their members. However details of deliberations in the standing committees are considered confidential and privy only to the members. However once their recommendations are

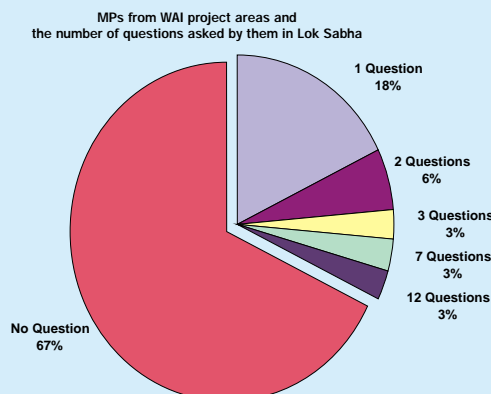
tabled in the Parliament they become public.

Which are the top three sources which must be visited to keep abreast on legislative issues?

- www.loksabha.nic.in
- www.rajyasabha.nic.in
- Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV which have to be compulsorily carried by cable networks live proceedings of the LS and RS beamed to households countrywide.

Questions asked by MPs from WATERAID Project Area

32 questions have been asked by 35 MPs on WATSAN issues during May 2004 to Dec 2006. The maximum number of questions - 12 have been asked by Shri Dhirendra Agarwal of Jharkhand, Shri Rajnarayan Budholiya of UP is in second place with 7 questions, 6 MPs have asked just one question, 22 MPs from the WAI operation area have not asked any questions on WATSAN.



A specific intervention with MPs in states of Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand on issues of water and sanitation

This unique IEC initiative focussed on the MPs is planned as a regular personalised letter written to 71 Lok Sabha MPs from the states of Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand in an attempt to engage with them on issues of WATSAN. The first attempt is to look at Total Sanitation Campaign. The data is seen through the lens of the constituency that the MP represents and brings out implementation issues coming from the ground, as indicated in the sample letter below.



Opportunity for Improved Sanitation in Bihar

TOTAL SANITATION CAMPAIGN (TSC)

- Launched in 1999
- A comprehensive programme to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas
- Goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation by 2010

बिजली पानी सड़क स्वास्थ्य स्वच्छता स्वाभिमान शौचालय

Shri Nikhil Kumar, Honourable MP, Aurangabad

possible accruable benefits to the people of your constituency.

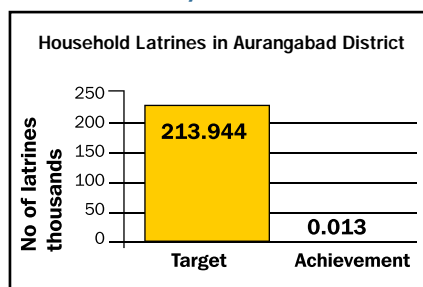
tract has since 2005 reported no expenditure.

Greetings from WaterAid India!

Here are some statistics from your district.

—Only .01% of the target in individual Household latrines achieved.

We are aware of your keen interest in development programs for your constituency.



—2,13,931 households are still uncovered in Aurangabad district.

—1,002 schools don't have toilets

We wish to share with you the opportunity provided by TSC in improving the sanitation situation of your district and

—With a total of Rs 27 crore sanctioned for achieving the sanitation targets, 17 crore of which is coming from the center, Aurangabad dis-

Source Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GOI and is as on 20th Nov 2006 (www.ddws.nic.in)

TSC has just achieved 2.5% of its targets for individual household level latrines (IHHL) in Bihar.

With this current growth rate, only 16% target will be achieved in Aurangabad District upto March 2012 and 100% target will be achieved in Aurangabad District in 2070 AD

WHY SHOULD YOU ACT ON ENHANCING SANITATION COVERAGE IN YOUR AREA?

—Thousands of women and children get snake bite when they go to jungle, especially during night time for defecation

deaths of pregnant women as they slipped on kaccha roads while going out for defecation.

keep millions of girls out of school, consigning them to a future of illiteracy and restricted choice

—Boys and men make fun of girls and women who go out for defecation

—About 60 – 70 lakh children die of diarrhoea annually

—The absence of adequate sanitation and water in schools is a major reason that girls drop out

—There are reports of

—Collecting water and carrying it over long distances



Midnapore district, West Bengal has constructed 20 lakh toilets in last five years!

West Bengal, Tripura, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are some of the better performing states under TSC

“Latrines for us!, we go and perform our functions out in the open. Latrines are for you big people”

Mahatma Gandhi recounting untouchables' grievances, Rajkot Sanitation Committee, 1896

WHY SHOULD YOU ACT ON ENHANCING SANITATION COVERAGE IN YOUR AREA?

Diseases and productivity losses linked to water and sanitation in developing countries amount to 2% of GDP (UNDP HDR 2006)

Economic loss of Rs. 1200 crore annually due to loss of mandays on account of diseases in India

Source: Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 1998-99

Studies done by WaterAid in Rural India suggest that every US\$ invested in water and sanitation projects gives a return ranging from \$3 to \$52.

In Bihar, WAI supports NGOs like ADITHI (Muzaffarpur), Integrated Development Foundation (Patna), Gram Swaraj Samiti Ghoshi (Jahanabad), Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad (Nalanda, Bihar Sharif) Jan Jagran Sansthan (Nalanda) and Nidan (Patna)



HOW CAN YOU ACT?

—Please attend the State and District Water & Sanitation Committees and seek physical and financial report on a quarterly basis.

—Encourage the DWSMs to let out the sanitation fund under the programme to SHGs.

--Set your own district level targets for TSC, for household latrines, for separate

toilets for boys and girls in every school.

—Talk about the benefits of improved sanitation in your meetings/briefings with senior bureaucrats, PHED officials and general public especially the Mukhiyas and Gram Pradhans.

—Involve and encourage participation of credible NGOs in TSC.

—Seek data on annual estimates of child deaths caused by water and sanitation problems.

—Advocate for budget for addressing sanitation issues in small towns.

—Encourage Gram Panchayats to participate in Nirmal Gram Puruskar.

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

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WaterAid, an international NGO works in ten states in India in partnership with local NGOs, government departments and ministries to provide safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene-education to the poorest people.

MP Speak

"Funds under Total Sanitation Campaign need to be better utilized for universal sanitation access. More emphasis needs to be given on adopting technology which enhances ground water quality. Support from NGOs who are working on these issues is going to be crucial."

Dharmendra Pradhan, Honourable MP, Deogarh, Orissa

Kurukshetra MP's Focus on Sanitation Improvement

"In the earlier scheme, TSC provided a subsidy of Rs 600 for building an Individual Household Latrine (IHHL), but there was hardly any progress, as the money was not enough to build a decent toilet. We started providing additional Rs 600 to encourage more people to build and use toilets. More than 20,000 IHHL have been built in the last two and a half years, while prior to us, the figures for IHHL were hardly touching 1,000. The Honourable MP also lobbied with the Ministry of Rural Development for increasing the subsidy to Rs 1,200. However more information and education campaigns are required as behavioural changes do take a long time"

- Vivek Sharma, Chief Programme Manager, Om Prakash Jindal Gramin Jankalyan Sansthan, Kurukshetra, Haryana

Om Prakash Jindal Gramin Jankalyan Sansthan is a social initiative promoted by Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament, Kurukshetra, Haryana and Managing Director, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.

About Democracy Connect



Elected representatives can be powerful agents of social change in a democracy. And yet, despite their focus on development issues, they are often handicapped by a lack of professional expertise, management support and even relevant information and knowledge. Democracy Connect (DC) recognizes this gap and wants to better equip these public leaders to deliver on their core development objectives. We take a hands-on approach and work closely with them – from providing targeted information on upcoming legislation to providing international execution expertise for specific development projects.

DC is a non-profit development consultancy and provides two broad categories of services to elected representatives in India:

- Policy and Information Services
- Constituency Development Services

We believe the scale of potential impact is immense (a single member of the Indian Parliament typically represents a population of 2 million). Our vision is that over the next five years, a critical mass of leaders will emerge from across the political divide that would evolve as champions of change in areas as diverse as education, health, livelihoods, microfinance and governance.

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