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## Media Release

# Less Than One Per Cent Rural Households in Jharkhand Have Access to Piped Drinking Water

## Rural Minister Replies to MP Mr. Nathwani

**April 28, 2010** : As per National Family Health Survey-III carried out in 2005-06; less than one per cent rural households in Jharkhand had access to piped drinking water. About 3.41 lakh hand pumps have been installed in rural areas of Jharkhand with an average of one hand pump for 71 persons.

Ms Agatha Sangma, the union minister of state for rural development stated this in rajya sabha in response to a question from Jharkhand's rajya sabha MP Mr. Parimal Nathwani. The minister stated that in areas not affected by ground water contaminations, ground water was considered a fairly safe source of drinking water. She also said that water supply in rural areas by installing hand pump was found techno-economically a better option than untreated surface water. It cost low in operations and maintenance as well as was easy to install because it didn't require electricity; She said.

Further, the minister also informed that the State Government had taken a decision for the formation of Village Water and Sanitation Committee in every revenue village of the State; and added that the local community would formulate water security plan and manage water supply in their villages.

Ms Sangma concluded by stating that the Government would provide them necessary support including funds from the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Program and the State Plan.

