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10th August 2019

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1) Topic:- Geography & Social issues (health) (Prelims and Mains)

News:- 46.7% rural households of Punjab sans (means without) portable water.

Previous context:- 1972, rural water supply scheme was launched with the help of national rural drinking water program but even after 47 years, portable water at rural areas of Punjab is still a distant dream.

Data from the Department of Water Supply & Sanitation(DWSS) :-

- **Currently approx. 33 lakh households living in the rural area of the Punjab & only approx.. 17.5 lakh are being provided drinking through pipelines.**
- **2018-19:- DWSS provided 1 lakh water connection but still approx. 15.5 lakh rural households don't have access to safe drinking water.**
- **Ferozpur and Gurdaspur have been the worst-hit district and Ropar, the highest number of rural household connections.**

Drinking water a distant dream		
33,01,599 households in rural areas of Punjab	17,59,212 getting drinking water through pipelines	87.79% have access to safe drinking water in Ropar District.
24.78% rural households get portable water in Ferozpur District.	23.47% are connected with pipelines in Gurdaspur District.	

(Source- The Tribune)

Consequences due to no access to Partable water:-

- **Due to the absence of Portable water supply, the rural**

households have been extracting groundwater through submersible water pumps-posing a threat to the groundwater level.

- *Punjab ranks the highest in the country for over-exploitation of groundwater.*
- *Waterborne disease spreading, years, June 2019–Diarrhoea was outbroken at Bathonian Khurd Village in Rajpura left two people dead & over 100 ill.*

Government Initiative:-

- *2014, the state government has introduced," Punjab State Rural Water supply & Sanitation Policy 2014"' aiming to provide water through 24/7 piped & metered individual connection but even after 5 years, the government has not been able to implement this policy.*

QUIZ: -

Question:- Which district of Punjab has the highest number of Portable Water water access?

1. *Ferozpur*
2. *Ropar*
3. *Gurdaspur*
4. *Moga*

Answer :-

Q1:- 4

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