

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1261  
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010  
WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORIES  
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether about 1.80 lakh rural habitations across the country have been reported with excess of contamination in available water;
- (b) if so, whether as many as 111 districts in different States and Union Territories either do not have water quality testing laboratory or upgraded the existing ones to track various kinds of contaminants; and
- (c) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to improve the position and provide necessary laboratories for improving the drinking water?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(MS. AGATHA SANGMA)

- (a) Yes Sir. As on 1/4/2009, State Governments had reported about 1.80 lakh habitations affected with excess of chemical contamination in rural drinking water sources and not covered by safe sources in the country. As on 27/7/2010, the remaining number of such habitations reported are 1,44,064.
- (b) Yes Sir. As on 4/3/2010, State Governments had reported 111 districts in various States/ UTs either did not have the facility of water quality testing laboratory or did not report data regarding establishment of water testing laboratory into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) developed by the Government of India. The position has improved and as on 28/7/2010, 84 districts in various States/ UTs are not having district water quality testing laboratory or still have not reported data into the online IMIS.
- (c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). As per NRDWP guidelines, States can utilize upto 65% of funds allocated to them for coverage of habitations with safe drinking water and to tackle water quality problems. Further, 5% of NRDWP funds have been earmarked for taking up Support activities with 100% central assistance, which inter alia include setting up of new district water quality testing laboratory where such facility is not available and upgrading of existing water quality testing laboratories. In order to test larger number of water samples, a provision of setting up of new water quality testing laboratories at the Sub-division level has also been introduced under the NRDWP guidelines.