

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3903
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2011
WHO STANDARD ON DRINKING WATER
Dhruvanarayana Shri R. ;Sudhakaran Shri K.

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently laid down standards for supply of drinking water to rural/tribal villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRWDP) has fulfilled the standards laid down by WHO;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)to(e): The World Health Organization (WHO) has published `Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality`. The Guidelines are addressed primarily to assist the water and health regulators, policy makers and their advisors and to assist in the development of national standards. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), taking assistance among others, from the WHO Guidelines on Drinking Water Quality, has prescribed the requirements for the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes in its standard IS-10500. The National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines indicates that water is defined as safe, if the chemical and bacteriological parameters are within the standards as prescribed in BIS Standard IS-10500.