

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:538
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
LABORATORIES FOR TESTING DRINKING WATER
Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish drinking water testing laboratories in rural areas of the country at various levels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount earmarked/ allocated for the purpose, State-wise;
- (c) whether any institutional mechanism exist for testing of water quality from laboratories;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the likely time by which such arrangements are likely to be made throughout the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population in the country. Under NRDWP, 3% of the allocation has been made for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance, which interalia includes, setting up of new/upgrading existing water quality testing laboratories at State, District and Sub-district levels. So far States have reported setting up of 23 State, 735 district and 906 sub-district laboratories. State-wise allocation of funds made under NRDWP-Support component for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance activities during 2011-12 and the number of laboratories is given at Annexure.

(c) to (e): The framework on implementation of Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance activities which interalia include testing of drinking water sources through laboratories at various levels is given in the NRDWP guidelines. States can set up new laboratories or upgrade existing water quality testing laboratories depending upon specific needs in each State. This is a continuous process as quality of drinking water is dynamic and changes with time due to various reasons.