

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1565
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012
INDIA S RANK IN QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER
Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about a UN study which ranks India at 120th position in the list of 122 countries with regard to quality of drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and (he reaction of the Government thereto);
- (c) the details of Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories functioning and proposed to be established by the Government in the country at present, State-wise:
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish more such Laboratories in the country; and t
- (e) if so. the details thereof, Siaie-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)& (b): Yes, Sir. The World Water Development Report - Water for People, Water for Life - 2003 by 23 United Nations partners constituting the World Water assessment Programme (WWAP) ranked India at 120th amongst 122 countries according to the quality of water. The assessment is a composite figure based upon a range of factors, such as the quantity and quality of freshwater, especially ground water and waste water treatment facilities as well as legal issues such as the application of pollution regulations. Water is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States with financial and technical assistance through the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to provide safe and adequate drinking water facilities to the rural areas. In order to ensure safe drinking water supply, in case of piped water supply schemes, States are adopting disinfection methods before supplying drinking water to the rural population. In case of hand pumps, States have been advised to conduct regular sanitary inspections of drinking water sources so that the hand pump platform is leak-proof, leach pit latrine is not in the near vicinity, proper soakage pits are available to drain out waste water, etc.

(c) to (e): The State-wise details of drinking water quality testing laboratories set up in the country so far as per online Integrated Management Information System as on 15/3/2012 is at Annexure. A provision of 3% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds has been made for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance. This can be utilized by States for, inter-alia? setting up offew water quality testing laboratories or upgrading existing water testing laboratories depending upon specific needs in each State. The targets of setting up new water quality testing laboratories in 2011-12 as reported by States is at Annexure. This is a continuous process as quality of drinking water is dynamic and changes with time due to various reasons.