

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:179

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

QUALITY STANDARD OF DRINKING WATER

Anandan Shri K.Murugeshan;Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

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

- (a) whether the Government has prescribed any quality standard specifications for potable water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the permissible quantity of chemical bacteria prescribed therefor;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which the quality standard specifications will be finalized for potable water in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a)&(b):The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) taking assistance among others, from the World Health Organization (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 indicate that water is defined as safe, if the chemical and bacteriological parameters are within the standards as prescribed in BIS Standard IS – 10500. The permissible limits for selected important chemical and other parameters in drinking water as per IS – 10500 – 2012 Standard on Drinking Water Specifications are as below.

S. No.	Parameter	Unit	Permissible limit
	in the absence of alternate source as per IS – 10500 -2012		
1	pH	6.5-8.5	
2	Turbidity	NTU	5
3	Arseni	cmg/l	0.05
4	Fluoride (as F)	mg/l	1.50
5	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/l	2000
6	Nitrate (as NO3)	mg/l	45
7	Iron (as Fe)	mg/l	0.3
8	Calcium (as Ca)	mg/l	200
9	Magnesium (as mg)	mg/l	100
10	Sulphate (as SO4)	mg/l	400
11	Total Alkalinity (as CaCO3)	mg/l	600
12	Bacteriological contamination (E-Coli or thermotolerant coliform bacteria)	No. per 100 ml	Shall not be detectable
13	Free Residual Chlorine (Min)	mg/l	1.0

# - NEPHELOMETRIC TURBIDITY UNIT

## - Milligram per litre

(c) & (d): Do not arise.