

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:181
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORIES
Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) the details of the criteria laid down for setting up of water quality testing laboratories;
- (b) the number of such laboratories set up in the country at various levels, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the States where these laboratories have not been set up so far at district level, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of the alternative arrangements made or being made for testing the quality of water where laboratories have not been set up at the district level; and
- (e) the details of the special measures taken and priority given by the Government for providing safe drinking water in rainfed and arid areas?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 181 due for reply on 6.12.2012

(a) Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) - Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance component, for which 3% of State allocation is earmarked on a 100% Central share basis, the States can set up water quality testing laboratories at State/UT, District and Sub-division levels wherever such facilities are not available.

(b) The State-wise number of water quality testing laboratories set up at various levels, as reported by the States/UTs on the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry as on 30/11/2012 is at Annexure-1.

(c) The State-wise details of district level water quality testing laboratories which have either not been set up or set up but data not entered on the Ministry website, as on 30/11/2012 alongwith the reasons thereof is at Annexure-2.

(d) As alternative arrangements for testing water quality where laboratories are not set up at district level, States have been advised to utilize the services of district Public Health laboratory, laboratories in University/Engineering Colleges, adjoining district water quality testing laboratory or outsource the work of testing water quality to reputed laboratories.

(e) Government of India has given high priority to provision of safe drinking water in rainfed and arid areas. Areas falling under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) can be considered as rainfed and arid areas. In order to provide safe drinking water in DDP and DPAP areas, special provision has been made in allocation of NRDWP funds.

Under the NRDWP, States can utilize upto 67% funds allocated to them for providing safe drinking water in adequate quantity through schemes like hand pumps, piped water supply schemes in the rural areas of the country, including in rainfed and arid areas. An allocation of Rs 10,500 crore has been made for NRDWP in 2012-13.