

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2944

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORIES

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Singh Shri Dushyant;Upadhyay Seema;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) the number of Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs) in the country for testing the quality of drinking water State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in these WQTLs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the procedure followed for testing and measuring the purity/quality of water in these WQTLs;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to use renewable technology to purify water in the States like Rajasthan that have ample sunlight; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): As reported by the States on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 11/3/2013, there are 24 State level Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs), 728 district level WQTLs and 1129 sub-district/ block level WQTLs in the country. The State/UT-wise details of the WQTLs in the country are at Annexure - I.

(b)&(c) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Government of India, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the National Rural Drinking Water Supply Programme (NRDWP), provides technical and financial assistance to the States/ UTs to supplement their efforts in providing adequate and safe drinking water supply to the rural areas. Under NRDWP, 3% of the funds allocated to the States are earmarked for water quality monitoring and surveillance activities on a 100% Central share basis which, inter alia, includes hiring of manpower on outsourcing basis in WQTLs, testing of drinking water sources at the Panchayat level by using simple field test kits and bacteriological vials, setting up of new district/sub-district WQTLs and up-gradation of existing WQTLs. Staff in WQTLs are appointed by the States/ UTs. As such, the details of posts lying vacant at the State/UT level are not maintained at the central level. However, as reported by the States/UTs on the IMIS as on 11.3.2013, there are 2639 persons (868 chemists, 206 Bacteriologists, 874 Assistants and 691 others) working in district WQTLs in the States/ UTs as per details at Annexure - II.

(d): Ministry has advised all the States to test drinking water quality in WQTLs by following the procedures specified by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in Methods of sampling and testing for water and waste water (IS - 3025) and Methods of sampling and microbiological examination of water (IS - 1622).

(e)&(f): Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation is encouraging States including Rajasthan to use renewable technology for supply of safe drinking water to the rural people. States can use renewable technologies for purifying water by utilizing NRDWP funds. Under NRDWP, up to 67 % of the funds allocated can be utilised for provision of safe drinking water facilities, including through use of renewable technology, to rural habitations in the country. In addition, 5 % of NRDWP funds have been earmarked for Water Quality for allocation to States to cover habitations with chemical contamination in drinking water sources and to States with high priority districts affected with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome cases.