

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4089
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
LABORATORY FOR WATER TESTING
Rama Devi Smt. ;Tudu Shri Laxman

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has ascertained that the laboratories testing the quality of water in the country are in sufficient number so that the testing of quality of water may not be delayed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken so far/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for setting up of such laboratories in sufficient number in the country along with the outcome thereof, State/UT-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDW&S) has indicated that the requirement of laboratories for testing water quality is assessed by the State/UT Governments and accordingly the laboratories are set up at various levels under the 'National Rural Drinking Water Program'. So far, 24 State Level, 728 District Level and 1129 Sub-district/Block Level Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs) have been set-up in the country. Under the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Central Water Commission (CWC) has 371 Level-I, 18 Level-II and 5 Level-III/II+ surface water quality laboratories. Besides, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has 16 chemical laboratories to analyse ground water quality in the country.

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoE&F) has recognized 11 Environmental Laboratories of Government/Semi-Government/Public Sector Undertakings/Educational Institutes under Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986. MoE&F has also recognized 102 Private Environmental Laboratories under EPA, 1986. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also has 28 laboratories under State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and 6 laboratories under Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). Since water quality assessment is an ongoing activity, the adequacy and strengthening of laboratory by CPCB is augmented from time to time depending upon the number of locations and parameters.

The State/UTs wise details of water quality testing laboratories under MoE&F, CPCB, MoDW&S and MoWR are in Annexure.

(d) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the National Rural Drinking Water Program provides 3 percent of the Central assistance to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia includes taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of district/sub-district level water quality testing laboratories. In addition, the guidelines for recognition of laboratories under Environment Protection Act, 1986 have been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for inviting proposals from Government and private sector laboratories. MoE&F recognizes only those proposals which are in conformity with the guidelines.