

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3219
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORIES
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the infrastructure available in many Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs) in the country is not satisfactory;
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal to upgrade the existing WQTLs in various parts of the country under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme; and
- (c) if so, the details of assistance likely to be provided to various States/UTs in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) As reported by the State/UT Governments into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, as on 22/8/2013, there are 23 State level drinking water quality testing laboratories, 726 district water quality testing laboratories, 1157 Sub-divisional/Block level water quality testing laboratories and 58 Mobile laboratories set up for testing of drinking water quality in the rural areas of the country.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State/UT Governments for providing safe drinking water facility in the rural areas of the country by providing technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Out of the allocations made to the States/UTs under NRDWP, upto 3% of funds are earmarked for water quality monitoring and surveillance activities on a 100% Central sharing basis which, inter alia, includes testing of drinking water sources at the Panchayat level by using simple field test kits, upgrading of existing water quality testing laboratories and setting up of new State/district/sub-divisional water quality testing laboratories wherever such facility is not available or needed. The Ministry has also released a reference document called "Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol" in Feb' 2013 to guide the States/UTs on strengthening and standardizing the drinking water quality testing laboratories at various levels which inter alia include suggestive laboratory space, equipment, manpower, methodology of testing, chemicals, glassware, frequency of sampling, etc.