

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2561
ANSWERED ON:06.02.2014
QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER
Singh Baba Shri K.C.

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

- (a) whether the infrastructure available in the country for monitoring the quality of drinking water supplied to the rural areas is adequate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor including the mechanism presently put in place to monitor the quality of the drinking water;
- (c) whether the financial and technical assistance provided to the States including Uttarakhand for testing and monitoring as to whether the quality of drinking water being provided in the rural areas is adequate;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to set up one drinking water quality testing laboratory in each district in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of such laboratories existing in the country as on date, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As reported by the States into the online Integrated Management Information System developed by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 31/1/2014, there are 2,096 stationary drinking water quality testing laboratories at the State, district, block and sub-divisional levels and another 63 mobile drinking water quality testing laboratories are also in place. Therefore, the infrastructure available in the country for monitoring the quality of drinking water supplied to the areas is adequate. Yet, the States are encouraged every year, to set up more number of laboratories and to upgrade testing facilities in the existing laboratories for further strengthening the monitoring of drinking water quality in the rural areas of the country.

(c) & (d) Though rural water supply is a State subject, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States including Uttarakhand by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. Out of the NRDWP funds allocated to the States, 3% funds on 100 per cent Central assistance basis is exclusively earmarked for drinking water quality monitoring and surveillance in the rural areas of the country, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of State/district/ block/sub-divisional water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables, hiring of manpower & vehicles to laboratories, providing field test kits/ refills, bacterial vials to Gram Panchayats etc.

In Uttarakhand State, there exist 28 district water quality testing laboratories and 13 sub-divisional water quality testing laboratories.

As a part of providing technical assistance and to streamline and guide all States including Uttarakhand, for effective monitoring of drinking water sources in laboratories, a "Uniform Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Protocol" document was released in February 2013 and distributed to all States including Uttarakhand.

(e) & (f) Wherever there is no facility to test drinking water quality in any district, the States have already been advised to set up district water quality testing laboratory immediately. The State-wise number of drinking water quality testing laboratories existing in the country at State, district, block and sub-divisional levels and availability of mobile drinking water quality testing laboratories, as reported by the States as on 31/1/2014 is at Annexure.