

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:672
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
WATER PURIFICATION
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Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up Water Quality Testing laboratories (WQTLs) at every development block level in the country to provide for easy testing of water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to use natural energy for water purification systems; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to ensure regular maintenance of water purification system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a)&(b) The Rural Drinking Water is a State Subject. The Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially through the Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, 3% of the funds allocated to the States are earmarked for water quality monitoring and surveillance which inter-alia include setting up of laboratories at various levels, provision of field test kits / re-fills including bacteriological vials to the Gram Panchayats, sanitary survey of drinking water sources etc. The details of water quality testing laboratories set up at State, District, Block and Sub-Divisional levels as reported by the State Governments into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 23/2/2015 is at Annexure.

(c)&(d) As Rural Water Supply is a State Subject, the power to plan, sanction, implement and monitor water supply schemes including use of natural energy has been delegated to the State Governments. However, during the Financial Year 2013-14, a target of converting 10,000 working hand pumps into solar dual pumps has been communicated to the States to be implemented in Integrated Action Plan Districts (Naxal affected) in the country. During the current Financial Year i.e., 2014-15, another 20,000 solar dual pumps have been targeted considering overwhelming response received from various nooks and corners of the country. All State Governments are provided funds for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country under the Centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, 15% of funds are earmarked towards operation and maintenance of water supply assets created.

Apart from this, a new sub-component of NRDWP namely community water purification plants was added during the current Financial Year 2014-15, to provide 8 to 10 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of safe drinking water for drinking and cooking purposes only in approximately 20,000 habitations affected with excess arsenic, fluoride, heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizer contaminants in one or more drinking water sources. In order to ensure proper maintenance of water purification plants, a provision of up to 10 year operation & maintenance (O&M) could be made the responsibility of the supplier or contractor who commissions these plants. The contractor may be allowed to levy a reasonable water tariff from the local communities to meet the O&M expenses.