

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3721
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORIES
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh

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

- (a) the details of the criteria for setting up of Water Quality Testing Laboratories (WQTLs);
- (b) the details of the States where these laboratories have not been set up so far at district level, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the alternative arrangements made or being made for testing the quality of water where these laboratories have not been set up at the district level; and
- (d) the details of the special measures taken and priority given by the Government for providing safe drinking water in rainfed and arid areas?

Answer

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

- (a) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has suggested all States that there should be a district water quality testing laboratory in each district and depending upon the number of drinking water sources and local water quality problems can set up laboratories at the sub-division and block levels also. They may also opt for a State level water quality testing laboratory and can procure mobile water quality testing laboratories.
- (b) As reported by States into the online Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry, State-wise number of laboratories set up including those States where district level laboratories have either not set up/ not reported or newly created districts or urban districts, as on 12/3/2015 is at Annexure.
- (c) Wherever district level laboratories have not been set up, the States have been advised by the Ministry to seek assistance from other State Department laboratories like Public Health or outsource the work of testing of water quality of rural drinking water sources to any reputed / accredited laboratory.
- (d) The Ministry does not differentiate between rainfed, arid and other areas as far as provision of safe drinking water in rural areas is concerned. In order to provide safe drinking water in all the rural areas of the country, the action points suggested to States were provision of safe water through piped water supply schemes especially in water quality affected areas, commissioning community water purification plants, regular testing of drinking water sources in the laboratories, conducting sanitary surveys, generating awareness amongst the rural populace to understand the importance of water quality through distribution of chemical field test kits and bacteriological vials, understanding health impacts of consuming unsafe water, focusing towards elimination of open defecation practices, promotion of institutional, personal and environmental hygiene including adopting proper solid and liquid waste management.