

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3041
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019**

PROMOTION OF R&D FOR SAFE DRINKING WATER

3041. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of programmes/schemes currently being implemented to promote Research and Development in provisioning of affordable and safe drinking water;
- (b) whether any scalable breakthrough solutions to address the key water-related challenges has been identified under the Water Technology Initiative Programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any projects to address water challenges identified in Kerala is currently underway; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR HARSH VARDHAN)**

**स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री; विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री; और पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्री
डॉ. हर्ष वर्धन**

(a) The Government is implementing a plan scheme titled “Water Technology Initiative” to promote research and development in provisioning safe drinking water. The scheme encourages both laboratory and field research for addressing identified water challenges. During the last 3 years, 7 water centres have been set up besides supporting 109 projects across the country at an expenditure of around Rs. 126 crore. Besides this plan scheme, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has also developed and demonstrated wide range of water technologies.

(b) & (c): Yes, Sir. The activities taken up under the scheme have resulted in providing solutions to 19 site specific water challenges related to water availability and quality covering 365 habitats across 23 states. The breakthrough research on materials, products, technologies and systems have provided scalable solutions to low per capita availability, salinity, bacteriological, iron and arsenic contaminations. Some of these solutions related to water conservation and augmentation, natural water filtration and arsenic contamination have been upscaled for meeting requirements of larger populations. The low temperature thermal desalination technology has also been demonstrated and upscaled by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

(d) & (e): The water challenges identified in Kerala include contamination through multiple species. A project is underway to identify the principal reservoirs of Vibrio Cholerae and pathogenic viruses in Vembanad Lake in Kerala and suggest appropriate management methodology. A prototype comprising of compact Secchi-disk for assessment of algal population has been designed. CSIR has also deployed water purification system in regions of Wayanad, Kottayam, Kuttanad and other flood affected areas.
