

1) Is there a need to create a separate agency with the task in each state to regularise and monitor the testing and quality of water supply? Comment.

A) Under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, the consumption of clean drinking water is an fundamental right of every citizen. It is placed under the Concurrent list of the Constitution, but the de facto powers, vests with the state governments. In India, water quality monitoring & regulation were placed under different ministries & regulatory boards at different forms of govt. At the Union level, the CGRB under Jal Shakti Ministry & CPCB monitors & regulates Groundwater and Surface water respectively. At the State level, respective State Water Resource Development Ministries and SPCB monitors & regulates Groundwater & Surface water respectively. In addition to this, Corporations & Municipalities has the responsibility of providing quality supply to their respective cities & towns.

Looking at the gamut of uses of water, it is plausible to say, there ~~should be an~~ single entity for monitoring is an need for & regulation at state level. This entity should be empowered with data, technology for better functioning in the state. The central govt should transfer the new technologies to the agency. It helps to achieve the target of providing tap water to every household by 2024 under Jal Jeevan Scheme. It also helps corporations & municipalities to augment its resources to sanitation & waste management, which inturn helps to improve the quality of the water.