

# Water purification systems to be installed in 30,000 rural schools

## Expo on drinking water purification systems held

Staff Reporter

**CHENNAI:** Under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), the Union Ministry of Rural Development is planning to install 30,000 standalone drinking water purification systems in 30,000 rural schools across the country at an estimated cost of Rs.200 crore this fiscal.

"To facilitate selection of appropriate technology, Global Innovation and Technology Alliance, a not-for-profit society promoted by the Department of Science and Technology and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is holding exhibitions in Mumbai, Gurgaon, Kolkata and Chennai," said G.K.Moinudeen, an official of the CII.

The exhibition of standalone drinking water purification systems here was held on Sunday at Vijaya Mahal, T.Nagar.

"The independent jury after identifying the right system among those units exhibited by the manufacturers with appropriate technology suitable for rural schools would make recommenda-



**PRODUCT DISPLAY:** Features of a product being explained by a company executive at a stall in the exhibition in Chennai on Sunday. - PHOTO: M.KARUNAKARAN

tion to the government," said Magesh Babu, Project officer with CII. "We look for the simplest yet most efficient technology with low power requirement. It should be easy to operate," said K.Gopalakrishna, a member of the jury and professor in the Environmental Engineering Division of the Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras. "The system exhibited has alternative provisions for

use in areas without electrification. They are robust, suitable for operation by children, user friendly, and automatic," said N.P.Venkataraman of Amara Aqua Systems, who was one of the exhibitors. "As 80 per cent of the diseases are water borne, purification of water is essential in schools," said V.Tamilarasi, chief water analyst, TWAD Board. The standalone purification systems

were required to have a capacity of 1,000-1,500 litres a day and conform to BIS quality standards. The system is required to be based on proven technology to get rid of turbidity, particulate matter, bacterial and viral contamination, iron, dissolved gases, odour and other impurities.

K.Saiprasad of TWAD Board and X.Arokianathan Co-Convenor of CII Tamil Nadu Panel participated.