

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3689  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
CONTAMINATED WATER  
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Government is aware of the new Nano Technology based system for removal of arsenic from water as reported in the Times of India dated November 11, 2006 ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken to adopt this technology in the country ;
- (c) Whether a large number of iron removal plants were installed by the Government for purification of water and most out of them have now become defunct; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government to defunct plants ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of Nano-technology based system for removal of arsenic from contaminated ground water. As the technology reported in Times of India newspaper dated 11.11.2006 is still to be field tested, its adoption by the State Governments depends on the success of field test reports. Rural drinking water is a State subject and the State Governments can sanction and implement projects for providing safe drinking water.

(c)&(d) As per information available, 16386 iron removal plants were approved, of which 9524 plants were installed. Out of these, only 4494 are reported in working condition. The main reason for iron removal plants getting defunct is lack of community participation to own the assets created and take up proper Operation & Maintenance (O&M). For all the iron removal plants being installed in the country after 01.04.2006, States have been advised to mobilize community in a manner that they contribute partial capital cost for intra-village distribution network and own the assets created and take up full O&M responsibility. Funds for the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities have been released to all States through the Communication & Capacity Development Units and the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme.