

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1786

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the villages affected with various chemical contaminations in the drinking water sources in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle water quality problems in the rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA)

(a) & (b): From time to time, States carry out tests of drinking water sources to ascertain the quality of water. Based on these, as on 01-04-2009, about 1.80 lakh rural habitations in the country have been reported with excess contamination viz. Arsenic, Fluoride, salinity, Iron and nitrate in their drinking water sources. State-wise details are annexed.

(c) Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States in their endeavor to provide potable drinking water to rural habitations under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, powers to plan, approve and implement water supply schemes are vested with the States. These States can access funds from these schemes to tackle water quality problems. Funds from 'Sustainability' component of NRDWP can also be used for dilution of aquifers through rainwater harvesting for tackling fluoride contamination.

Annexure

Statement referred in the reply to part (a) & (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1786 to be

State-wise list of number of water quality-affected habitations as on 1/4/2009

S. State Name Contaminant-wise number of habitations
No. Total Fluoride Arsenic Iron Salinity Nitrate

1	Andhra Pradesh	1,097	791		0	0	306		0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	274	0		0	274	0		0
3	Assam	26,589	517		810	25,262	0		0
4	Bihar	34,909	5,957		2,510	26,442	0		0
5	Chhattisgarh	8,379	51		12	8,158	158		0
6	Gujarat	948	450		0	1	274		223

7	Haryana	179	173	0	0	6	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	88	0	8	8	72	0
9	Jammu & Kashmir	6	0	0	0	6	0
10	Jharkhand	815	83	0	730	1	1
11	Karnataka	8,559	4,152	21	3,127	1,203	56
12	Kerala	1,879	172	0	1,291	335	81
13	Madhya Pradesh	5,385	4,720	0	178	481	6
14	Maharashtra	3,989	1,415	0	922	442	1,210
15	Manipur	5	0	0	5	0	0
16	Meghalaya	107	1	0	106	0	0
17	Nagaland	157	0	0	157	0	0
18	Orissa	23,676	700	2	20,255	2,667	52
19	Puducherry	4	0	0	4	0	0
20	Punjab	864	54	0	51	759	0
21	Rajasthan	37,658	11,775	66	103	24,787	927
22	Tamil Nadu	637	0	0	557	80	0
23	Tripura	7,102	0	0	7,102	0	0
24	Uttar Pradesh	5,911	1,768	873	2,800	455	15
25	Uttarakhand	9	2	7	0	0	0
26	West Bengal	10,773	582	5,195	4,339	657	0
	Total	1,79,999	33,363	9,504	1,01,872	32,689	2,571