

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2203
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010
WATER POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS
Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present situation of water pollution in rural areas;
- (b) whether the Government has formulated any action plan in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The water pollution in rural areas is caused due to discharge of domestic sewage directly or indirectly into water bodies, agricultural run-off during rainy season containing chemical fertilizers and pesticides and effluents from agro-based industries.

As per information provided by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, the ground water in a total number of 1,79,999 habitations in 26 States have been found to be contaminated with fluoride, arsenic, iron, nitrate or salinity. Details are enclosed as annexure.

The Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps to discourage excessive use of chemical fertilizer and pesticides. The Ministry of Rural development has been implementing schemes for improving rural sanitation and providing piped water supply to rural habitations affected by ground water contamination. The Pollution Control Boards have been undertaking regular inspection of agro-based industries in order to regulate their effluent quality.