

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4885

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2010

IMPACT OF CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

Badal Harsimrat Kaur;Bajwa Shri Partap Singh;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Pradhan Shri Amarnath;Sachan Shri Rakesh;Singh Shri Uday Pratap;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether most of the people living in rural areas of the country are forced to drink contaminated water due to shortage of safe drinking water;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;
- (d) if so, the number of children/ adults who have died/ rendered handicapped during each of the last three years and current year and likely to suffer from certain other diseases in future due to consumption of contaminated water, State-wise and location-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has announced/ proposes to announce any rehabilitation package for the persons affected due to water contamination and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if so, the remedial steps taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to launch campaign for spreading intensive education and community awareness among the people to prevent the continued or increased use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking and cooking purpose; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) No Sir.

(b)&(c) State Governments and or its agencies responsible for rural water supply carry out testing of drinking water sources from time to time and furnish the information of water quality affected habitations in the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Department. As reported by the States, as on 1.4.2009, there were about 1.8 lakh rural habitations in the country having water quality problems. State-wise and contaminant-wise details of the same are annexed.

(d) Such information is not collected/ maintained by the Department.

(e)& (f) Rural drinking water is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States through the centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement their efforts in providing potable drinking water in rural areas. Powers to plan, approve and implement water supply schemes/ activities under NRDWP also vest with the States. As per NRDWP guidelines, upto 20% of funds allocated to States can be utilized for providing potable drinking water in the quality-affected habitations. In addition, as a measure of flexibility, States can also utilize NRDWP (coverage) component funds for tackling drinking water quality problems. Therefore, upto 65% of the NRDWP funds at the state level can be utilised for providing potable drinking water in the quality-affected habitations.

(g)&(h): 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Support activities that, inter alia, include awareness generation, capacity building, research & development, water quality monitoring & surveillance, setting up of water quality testing laboratories, monitoring & evaluation, etc. States carry out awareness campaigns on various aspects of safe drinking water including use of arsenic free water for drinking and cooking purposes utilizing funds available under NRDWP (Support) component. To facilitate the same, detailed Information, Education & Communication (IEC) guidelines have been issued.

Annex

Annex referred to in the reply to part (b) and (c) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4885 to be answered on 26/4/2010

State-wise and contaminant-wise number of water quality-affected habitations reported as on 1/4/2009

S.No. State Name Contaminant wise number of Habitations  
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 AND 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