

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:202

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2010

WATER QUALITY IN RURAL AREAS

Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao;Ram Shri Purnmasi

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether contamination contents like arsenic, fluoride, salinity, iron, nitrate or combination of these have affected the quality of the drinking water available in about 1,95,813 habitations in the rural areas of the country including the Malwa region of Punjab; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Governments, as on 1/4/2006, there were 1,95,813 rural habitations in the country, which inter-alia includes the Malwa region of Punjab, having water quality problems viz., excess arsenic, fluoride, salinity, nitrate, iron or combination of these.

(b) Under Bharat Nirman, States have completed projects to supply safe drinking water in many habitations. State Governments have updated the figures in the online Integrated Management Information System and as on 1/4/2010, there are about 1.44 lakh rural habitations, having water quality problems, remaining in the country. State Governments periodically test the drinking water quality in the rural areas through their district and sub-division level water testing laboratories and therefore, the data on number of water quality affected habitations is dynamic. Government of India assists the State Governments financially and technically through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country. As per the guidelines of NRDWP, upto 65% of funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems and provide safe and clean drinking water.