GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3393
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
STUDY ON POTABLE WATER QUALITY
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to analyse potable water quality in major metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the level of fluoride and arsenic contamination found in the samples; and

(c) the policy initiatives put in place to provide clean drinking water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a) : Yes, Madam.

(b) : According to the Service Level Benchmarking study conducted by the Ministry of Urban Development in 2009-10 which covered 11 metro cities, the quality of water supply ranged from 72.1% to 100% vis-a-vis a bench-mark of 100%. This was measured in terms of the number of samples that fulfil potable water standards as per the norms of the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) which includes inter alia norms for arsenic and flouride. Rating of all class I cities under the National Urban Sanitation Policy conducted in 2009-10 revealed that only 39 out of 423 cities have fulfilled requisite parameters in respect of drinking water quality. Data available with the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) indicates problems of high salinity, nitrate, fluoride, heavy metals like Chromium/Cadmium/Manganese/Lead in ground water in isolated pockets. It has reported arsenic contamination in ground water in 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh and 15 districts of Bihar. Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam conducted a survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) which revealed arsenic problem in 1018 habitations and other quality problems in 6377 habitations in the State.

(c) : The Ministry of Urban Development has formulated service level benchmarks i.e quality of water supplied should fully comply with the norms of the CPHEEO.