

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1158

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board carries out any survey for chemicals, quality of water in shallow aquifers in Keonjhar of Odisha, Kota and Bundi areas of Rajasthan to identify habitations where drinking water is contaminated with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether contamination with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate is reported in excess of Bureau of Indian Standards prescribed limit in ground water;

(d) if so, the details of excesses to prescribed limit; and

(e) the steps taken to arrest the depletion of ground water resources alongwith the measures for treatment of water to ensure supply of drinking water in above areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board carries out annual surveys for chemical quality of water in shallow aquifers on regional basis through a network of observation wells located throughout the country to identify areas affected by contamination of ground water. 54 wells in Keonjhar district of Odisha, 23 in Kota district and 19 in Bundi district of Rajasthan have been surveyed. However, Central Ground Water Board does not carry out surveys on habitation basis to identify the habitations where drinking water is contaminated with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate.

(c) & (d) No arsenic contamination has so far been reported from the States of Odisha and Rajasthan. Occurrence of Fluoride and Nitrate in ground water in excess of Bureau of Indian Standards prescribed limits of more than 1.5 mg/l and 45 mg/l respectively in ground water has been reported from a few locations in Keonjhar district of Odisha and Kota and Bundi districts of Rajasthan. The details of excesses to prescribed limits are placed as Annexure-I.

(e) The following steps are being taken to arrest the depletion of ground water resources along with the measures for treatment of water to ensure supply of drinking water in above areas are:

1. Providing safe drinking water from alternate surface water bodies, removal of contaminants from ground water using treatment plants/filters, rain water harvesting, insitu dilution of contaminants through artificial recharge are the main methods of water treatment undertaken in the affected areas.

2. Demonstrative Projects for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting-Proposal received from Director, Ground Water Survey & Investigation, Odisha for construction of check dams, recharge ponds, recharge wells etc. is under scrutiny. No proposal has so far been received from the concerned State agency for Bundi and Kota districts in Rajasthan.

3. Implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States viz. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka & Rajasthan during 2007-2010. In Rajasthan, the scheme has been implemented in Over-exploited and Critical blocks Talera, K. Patan, Hindoli ad Nainwa in Budi district and Sultanpur, Itawa, Khairabad, Ladpura and Sangod blocks of Kota district.

4. Issuing of directions by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to Chief Secretaries in 12 States and Administrators in 2 Union Territories having Over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote/ adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting;

5. Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control of development and management of ground water:

6. Circulation of Master Plan for artificial recharge of ground water to the States/UTs

7. Web Enabled Ground Water Information System (WEGWIS) for dissemination of ground water related information to all stake holders;