

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1243

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER

Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the recent study report of UNICEF, the No. of districts with arsenic and fluoride affected ground water in UP have increased from 20 in 2007 to 34 in 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether level of arsenic, fluoride and other heavy metals have reached an alarming level in 179 blocks of UP;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per information received from U.P. Jal Nigam, testing for arsenic contamination in drinking water of India Mark –II Hand Pumps was carried out in 51 districts, with UNICEF support during 2005-2007. There was no new survey done in the year 2011. No such study with UNICEF support has been carried out for testing for Fluoride contamination.

(c) & (d) As per the UNICEF assisted study for Arsenic, 74 blocks in 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh are affected by arsenic contamination on the basis of the permissible limit of 0.01 mg/lit prescribed by WHO. However, as per the Government of India standards of 0.05 mg/lit prevailing at that time only seven districts namely Ballia, Lakhimpur, Kheri, Behraich, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Chandauli and Bareilly were found to be affected by Arsenic contamination. Similarly, Water Quality Survey carried out by UP Jal Nigam in 2003, drinking water sources in 207 blocks of 44 districts were affected by Fluoride contamination.No studies on heavy metal contamination were carried out by UNICEF.

(e) Central Ground Water Board has been carrying out exploratory drilling in the arsenic affected areas of the State to delineate arsenic free aquifers. So far, 23 exploratory wells tapping arsenic free aquifer zones have been constructed in the districts of Ballia, Balrampur, Gonda, Ghazipur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Mau & Siddharthnagar.Remedial measures for treatment of water in the affected areas are undertaken by the concerned state government water supplying agencies.However, Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them the technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored scheme of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).