

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2957

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011

CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER

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**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the names of the States where rivers and groundwater have been found to be contaminated with salinity, iron and nitrates;
- (b) whether the contamination is in excess of the limit prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS);
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring out a white paper in this regard;and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission under Ministry of Water Resources monitors water quality from 371 stations covering Ganga, Brahmaputra, Krishna, Godavari, Wanganaga, Mahanadi, Tapi and Chenab river basins. Analysis of 10 years average data shows that value of nitrates concentration is within the permissible limit as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS). Iron concentration is also within permissible limit (1.0 mg/l) in most of the water quality stations. At some places the value of iron concentration exceeded the maximum permissible limit.

As per the analysis of ground water samples collected from the observation wells monitored by Central Ground Water Board, contamination due to the presence of salinity, iron and/ or nitrates in excess of permissible limits prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards has been observed from isolated pockets in the States/ UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

(c) The details of contamination in river water and Ground Water are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II.

(d) As per information received, the Central & State Pollution Control Boards have implemented the Water Act, 1974 to restore water quality. The main steps taken to prevent and control water pollution are as under:

Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974

Special Drives: 17 categories of industries

Industries discharging into rivers and lakes

41 Problem areas action plan as per Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).

Environmental auditing

Common effluent treatment plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units.

Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology

Urban centres discharging wastewater in aquatic resources and having no treatment facilities have been identified and recommended for appropriate action to respective authorities.

Identified urban centres have been considered under various River Action Plans for interception, diversion and development of treatment facilities.

The rain water harvesting practices implemented in various regions of the country has augmented the depleted water table and consequently improved quality of sub surface water.

(e) Ministry of Water Resources has no proposal to bring out a white paper in this regard.

(f) Question does not arise in view of (e) above.