

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:177

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently conducted a survey to identify villages in various States where arsenic, nitrate and fluoride contents in drinking water are excessive;
- (b) if so, the details of such villages, State-wise;
- (c) the impact of these chemicals on human health, animals, environment etc.;
- (d) whether any measures have been undertaken by the Government to reduce these chemical contents in the drinking water;
- (e) if so, the success achieved by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the details of the schemes undertaken in these villages by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 177 admitted for reply on 11.08.2011

(a) & (b): Drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of States with financial and technical assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing adequate and safe drinking water to the rural population in the country. State Government Departments dealing with rural drinking water supply regularly conduct water quality testing through their State, district and sub-district water quality testing laboratories and report the same into the Online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) developed by the Ministry. As on 1/4/2011, States have reported that there are 1,21,046 habitations remaining with some drinking water sources having water quality problems to be provided safe drinking water supply. State-wise details are at Annex-1.

(c): Long-term consumption of drinking water with excess arsenic may cause arsenecosis, keratosis and melanosis while drinking water with excess fluoride may result in skeletal, non-skeletal and dental fluorosis. Consumption of excess nitrate may result in methamoglobinemia or blue baby syndrome in infants.

(d)to(f): State Governments have been advised to conduct regular testing of drinking water sources so as to ensure provision of safe drinking water. States have been advised to provide safe water from alternate surface water bodies, especially for arsenic and fluoride problems, whenever these chemical contamination are found in some drinking water sources in any habitation, in excess of permissible limits,. Artificial recharge of ground water is also strongly promoted by the Ministry for insitu dilution of contaminants in aquifers. Though arsenic and fluoride removal technologies are adopted by States like AP, West Bengal, Maharashtra these were not found to be sustainable due to the skills required for O&M, high cost of production of water and reject management issues. Under NRDWP, upto 65% of total allocation to States can be utilised for coverage of quality affected habitations. Budgetary allocations for NRDWP have been increased form Rs. 8000 cr. in 2009-10 to Rs. 9350 cr. in 2011-12. Under Bharat Nirman Phase II, from 1.4.2009 to 30.6.2011, 61275 quality affected habitations have been covered with provision of safe drinking water through 81538 number of water supply schemes. Details are at Annex-2.