

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:580
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ground water quality in the country particularly in eastern U.P., Bihar and West Bengal has deteriorated due to presence of chemical and metallic substances;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the funds allocated to the various States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to constitute Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) to protect the water resources and its quality in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Water quality problems have been observed in some parts of the country as per details given in Annexure-I.
- (c) The steps taken by the Government in relation to water quality problems include:-
 - (i) Explorations to find out ground water sources free from contaminants.
 - (ii) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme `Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)` for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population. Funds released to the States by the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) under the scheme have been indicated in Annexure-II.
- (d)&(e) Government has constituted the Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) in May, 2005.