

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:153
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011
CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the presence of fluoride, arsenic and other toxic and carcinogenic compounds in ground water rendering water to be unfit for consumption in various districts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any schemes/projects are being implemented for treatment of such contaminated water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to protect ground water from contamination?

Answer

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 153 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2011 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER" ASKED BY SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN & SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

(a) As per the analysis of Ground Water samples collected by Central Ground Water Board, contamination due to the presence of fluoride, arsenic and other toxic and carcinogenic substance like lead, cadmium, chromium etc. in excess of permissible limits prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standard have been observed from isolated pocked in some States.

(b) State-wise details are given in Annexure I.

(c) & (d) Water is a state subject and hence it is the responsibility of the concerned state governments to undertake schemes/projects for treatment of contaminated water. However, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe drinking water in rural areas of the country. Upto 65% of the funds under NRDWP can be used by States for addressing sustainability of safe drinking water in ground water quality affected habitation.

(e) The responsibility to protect ground water from contamination lies with the States concerned. However, Govt. of India has taken following steps for protection of Ground Water from contamination.

1. Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) constituted under Environment (Protection) Act 1986 for issuing directions and for taking measures for protection of Ground Water from contamination under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. Under the directives of WQAA, reports on Ground Water and Surface Water pollution hotspots were prepared and uploaded to WQAA website for public use.