

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2478

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011

CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER

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

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of media reports regarding arsenic hazard in ground water;
- (b) if so, the details of the districts having arsenic in ground water higher than the permissible limits of World Health Organisation, State-wise including Ballia in U.P.;
- (c) whether the arsenic menace has intensified since 1970s when Government sank millions of tubewells in the Ballia regions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether exploratory wells constructed by the Government are not successful;
- (f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether large scale misuse of money and siphoning off has been reported in this regard; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken to counter it ?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) Details of districts having arsenic concentration in ground water exceeding the permissible limit of 10 ppb as prescribed by the World Health Organization as per studies carried out by Central Ground Water Board and concerned State Government Agencies are given in Annexure I.
- (c) No such study linking intensification of arsenic menace and sinking of tubewells by Government since 1970s in Ballia region has been carried out by the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (d) In view of (c) above, question does not arise.
- (e) Central Ground Water Board constructs exploratory wells to delineate arsenic free aquifer zones. The exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board have been successful and have been handed over to the concerned State agencies for utilization in public water supply schemes.
- (f) Statewise details of exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board are given in Annexure II.
- (g) No such incidence of misuse of money and siphoning off in drilling of exploratory wells in arsenic affected areas has been reported in the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (h) In view of (g) above, question does not arise.