

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1827

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2011

CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) the permissible limit prescribed by the Government in regard to presence of chemicals in drinking water, chemical-wise;
- (b) whether excessive quantity of arsenic/other chemicals have been found in drinking water in various parts of the country including Balia district in Uttar Pradesh, (C) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether some cases of deaths due to presence of such chemicals in drinking water have also been reported in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (f) the action plan of the Government to check the recurrence of such menaces?

Answer

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANTATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a): The permissible limits for selected chemical parameters in drinking water as per the Bureau of Indian Standards vide standard IS-10500 - 2004 on 'Drinking Water Specifications' are as below. These standards have been mentioned in the guidelines of the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

SI.
No. Parameter Unit Maximum permissible limit &A\$
 per IS-I0500-2004

1. PH 6.5-8.5

2. Arsenic mg/l 0.05

3. Fluoride mg/l 1.50

4. Total Dissolved mg/l 2000
 Solids (TDS)

5. Nitrate mg/l 45

6. Iron mg/l 1.0

7. Calcium (as Ca) mg/l 200

8. Magnesium (as mg) mg/l 100

9. Sulphate mg/l 400

10. Alkalinity mg/l 600

(b)&(c): Yes Sir. The list of remaining rural habitations affected with chemical contaminants of excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrate in drinking water sources to be covered with provision of safe drinking water State-wise, as on 1/4/2011 is given in the Annexure. This includes those affected with excess arsenic and other chemicals in drinking water sources in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh.

(d)&(e): No reports from the State Government Departments dealing with drinking water supply were received so far, regarding deaths occurred due to presence of such chemicals in drinking water.

(f): Presence of chemicals like arsenic, fluoride and iron above permissible limits in drinking water sources is primarily due to natural reasons. The strategy of the Government is to ensure provision of safe drinking water from alternate safe sources and/or provide specific water treatment units for removal/bringing the level of such chemicals in drinking water within permissible limits of BIS Standard IS-10500.