

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2832

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

DISEASES CAUSED BY CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases of diseases including diarrhoea, hepatitis, cholera, typhoid and fluorosis, particularly among children are reported due to the use of contaminated drinking water having high level of various contaminants including fluoride and arsenic in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of cases and deaths reported due to these diseases caused by contaminated drinking water during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to provide proper treatment for these diseases alongwith the funds spent for the purpose during the said period, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes a comprehensive plan to control such diseases caused by contaminated drinking water and launch an awareness campaign for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a)&(b): Consumption of contaminated drinking water may cause Water Borne Diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever). State wise details of reported cases and deaths due to Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases, Viral Hepatitis and Typhoid (Enteric Fever) during the years 2009-11 are given at Annexure-I to IV.

Intake of drinking water containing high fluoride and arsenic contents may lead to number of health problems such as dental fluorosis and arsenicosis. However, national level systematic information on cases due to fluorosis and arsenicosis are not available.

(c)to(e): Provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to control spread of water borne diseases. Responsibility for providing safe drinking water primarily lies with the State Governments, though following programmes are being run by Government of India through State Governments/local bodies to ensure supply of safe drinking-water:

Ministry of Rural Development Department of Drinking Water Supply

- (i) National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).
- (ii) Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme.
- (iii) Jalmani Programme.

Ministry of Urban Development

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issues technical guidelines from time to time to State Governments on prevention and control of water borne diseases and helps them in carrying out investigation of outbreaks of such diseases under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP).

Government of India also educates people through television, radio and exhibitions on the importance of potable drinking water.

Health is a 'State' subject. However, Government of India under Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) provides financial assistance to states for disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and response. Under IDSP the districts and States have been strengthened by providing additional manpower, training of identified Rapid Response Team

(RRT) members for outbreak investigations, strengthening of laboratories for detection of epidemic prone diseases, ICT equipment for data entry, analysis and data transfer, and provision of funds for operationalization. Fund released under IDSP to State Health Societies and expenditures incurred during last three years are at Annexure (V).

