

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3629

ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012

ARSENIC POISONING IN DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) whether some cases of deaths due to consumption of arsenic/contaminated drinking water have been reported in various parts of the country including in West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) whether super/bug has been found in drinking water in various States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that they do not maintain national level systematic information about morbidity and mortality due to arsenecosis disease nor have any information about presence of superbug in drinking water. No reports from the State Governments have been received by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation regarding deaths occurred due to consumption of arsenic/contaminated drinking water and regarding presence of superbug in drinking water.

(e): Water supply is a State subject. For providing safe drinking water in rural areas of the country, Government of India is assisting the States technically and financially through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Upto 62% of allocation made to the States could be utilized for coverage/ tackling of water quality problems. During the Annual Action Plan meetings held with all State Governments in February/ March 2012, they have been advised to accord highest priority for tackling water quality problems to provide safe drinking water to the people.