

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6682
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER
Rane Dr. Nilesh Narayan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Ground Water Board carries out surveys on habitation basis to identify the habitations where drinking water is contaminated with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken so far to identify the habitations where drinking water is contaminated with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate; and
- (d) the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources does not carry out surveys on habitation basis to identify habitations where drinking water is contaminated with Fluoride, Arsenic and Nitrate. However, Central Ground Water Board collects ground water samples for chemical analyses once in a year during pre-monsoon season on regional basis from a network of 14966 observation wells located in different parts of the country. Ground water samples are also collected for chemical analysis during the course of various scientific studies like Ground Water Management Studies, Ground Water Exploration etc. Special studies are also being conducted by the Board in select areas having anthropogenic pollution related problems.

(c) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers through the states the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide safe and adequate drinking water to the rural area. Under the NRDWP the water quality monitoring and surveillance programme is implemented through which the state, district and sub-district laboratories are setup for testing of chemical and bacteriological contamination of drinking water further Field Test Kits (FTKs) are distributed to Gram Panchayats to enable rural population to test their own drinking water supply.

(d) As reported by the states on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 1.4.2012, out of 1669186 rural habitations in the country 17400 habitations have some source affected with fluoride contamination, 3481 with arsenic contamination 53029 with iron contamination, 22529 with salinity and 2941 with nitrate contamination. The state wise list is at Annexure I.