

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6784
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012
CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arsenic contamination of ground water from Yamuna floodplains in Delhi is several times more than the permissible limit and the reason for this contamination is fly ash and other residue from Delhi thermal power plants at Rajghat and Indraprastha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to reduce the contamination of Yamuna water?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) A news article titled "Arsenic contamination five times above limit in Yamuna floodplains" published in The Indian Express on April 23, 2012, based on a study conducted by Department of Geology, Delhi University, states that "arsenic contamination of ground water from Yamuna floodplains in Delhi is several times the permissible limit and the prime culprit for this poisoning is fly ash and other residue from Delhi's thermal power plants". The article mentions that concentration of upto 180 ppb was found in the 120 water samples collected from Yamuna floodplains and the study has established that the source of contamination is fly ash and slurry from coal based thermal power plants.

As per analyses of ground water samples collected by Central Ground Water Board from Yamuna flood plains during the period 2003 – 2011, arsenic in excess of the permissible limit of 50 ppb as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (IS 10500;2004) has been reported from one hand pump in Geeta Colony and three handpumps in NaglaRajpura near MayurVihar Phase I on the eastern bank of river Yamuna. The arsenic concentration varies from 135 ppb to 213 ppb.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Department of Environment, Govt. of Delhi has informed that Indraprastha Power Station has been closed w.e.f. 30.12.2009. Director (Tech), Indraprastha Power Generation Company Ltd. & Pragati Power Corporation Ltd. has written to the Member Secretary, DPCC on the issue of early retirement of Rajghat Power House.

To reduce the contamination of Yamuna water, Delhi Jal Board has proposed a general sewerage arrangement consisting of Laying of Interceptor sewer in a 59 km long stretch along three major drains viz. Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara to intercept sewage flowing from subsidiary small drains and convey it to the nearest Sewage Treatment Plants to ensure that only treated sewage is discharged.

Delhi Jal Board has also initiated preparation of Delhi Sewerage Master Plan 2031. After preparation of Draft Master Plan, process of laying of sewerage system in unsewered areas of Delhi will be taken up.