

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2031

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

URANIUM IN GROUNDWATER

Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir;Sivasami Shri C.

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether uranium has been found in groundwater in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether uranium contamination in groundwater of some States is more than 12 times the permissible limits of World Health Organisation (WHO);
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of the people who have died due to uranium in groundwater, so far, State-wise;
- (f) whether uranium treatment facility has been installed by the Government in the affected areas; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS ( SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. Traces of Uranium have been found in ground water at some locations of Punjab State.
- (b) As per information received from the Department of Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation, Government of Punjab, instances of Uranium contamination in ground water have been reported from isolated pockets in the districts of Barnala, Bhatinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Moga and Sangrur in Punjab.
- (c) Yes Madam.
- (d) Out of 1686 water samples collected by the Department of Water Supply & Sanitation from various water supply schemes of Punjab State, concentration of uranium more than 12 times the permissible limit of 15 micrograms/ litre (or ppb) has been found in 26 samples.
- (e) No information is available on death of people due to uranium contamination in ground water.
- (f) & (g) Government of Punjab is in the process of installing Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plants in the areas affected with Uranium. The State is setting up more than 1800 RO Systems in poor water quality affected areas in the State to ensure quality drinking water to rural population.