

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012
ARSENIC CONTAMINATION IN RIVERS
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the river waters of the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Meghna are affected by arsenic contamination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the contamination of arsenic in river waters?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring water quality of aquatic sources at 2500 stations in 28 States and 6 Union Territories spread over the country. The monitoring network covers 445 Rivers beside other aquatic sources. Among the 2500 stations, 1275 are on rivers. Meghna river is not covered under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme network. Arsenic concentration in Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers at various locations during 2010-11 is given at Annexure. The observed data on Arsenic concentration in the monitoring programme reveals that surface water quality doesn't indicate its presence in aqueous phase.