

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:388

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified habitations with excessive arsenic, nitrate and fluoride contents in drinking water in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any study was conducted to assess the impact of these chemicals on human health, animals and environment, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the results achieved thereby during each of the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b): As reported by the State Governments in the Online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 1/4/2012, the number of rural habitations affected by excessive arsenic, nitrate and fluoride in at least one drinking water source are 4314 and 2758 and 17915 respectively. A State/ UT-wise list of number of rural habitations along with the population affected by excessive arsenic, nitrate and fluoride is at Annexure.

(c): Prolonged use of water contaminated with arsenic may cause arsenicosis, whereas prolonged use of water contaminated with nitrate may cause methamoglobinemia. Similarly, prolonged use of water contaminated with fluoride may cause fluorosis which has adverse effect on bones and teeth especially in children.

(d)&(e): The Government of India has advised all states to provide safe drinking water from surface water bodies as a sustainable measure in those habitations affected with chemical contaminations including arsenic, nitrate and fluoride. States can utilize upto 67% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds released to them to provide safe drinking water in quality affected habitations. The budgetary provision for NRDWP is Rs.10,500 crore in 2012-13.

During the last three years and the current year, the Government of India has supplemented the efforts of States by providing financial and technical assistance under NRDWP for provision of drinking water free from arsenic, nitrate and fluoride to habitations and the achievements are as per details given below:

Year    Quality affected habitations covered with provision of safe drinking water

	Arsenic affected	Nitrate affected	Fluoride affected	Total
2009-10	2357	503	6606	9466
2010-11	2832	968	5070	8870
2011-12	1858	926	6112	8896
2012-13 (As on 1.8.12)	58	43	263	364
Total	7105	2440	18051	27596