

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1029
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
PRESENCE OF ARSENIC IN GROUND WATER
Shekhar Shri Neeraj

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several States including Uttar Pradesh are badly affected by the presence of arsenic and other hazardous substances in ground water;
- (b) if so, the details of such areas/States affected and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the level of substances found in the ground water as compared to permissible WHO standards;
- (d) the funds allocated, released and utilised by the State Governments for improving the quality of water during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken/are being taken by the Government to address the problem?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported occurrence of arsenic in ground water from certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam. Other contaminants of groundwater are fluoride, lead, cadmium, chromium and manganese. As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has conducted survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The survey has revealed the arsenic problem in 1018 habitations and other quality problems in 6377 habitations in the State.

(c) Average level of arsenic reported in Uttar Pradesh is 0.50 mg/l as against the maximum permissible limit of 0.01 mg/l prescribed by World Health Organisation (WHO). However, as per BIS norms, arsenic concentration in drinking water sources beyond permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l is considered hazardous to health.

(d) & (g) The Development, provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. State-wise and year-wise position of funds released by the Department of Drinking Water Supply under ARWSP is given at Annexure.

As per information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the funds allocated by them for improving the quality of water during the last three years and the current year are indicated below:-

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
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2006-07	64.91
2007-08	118.42
2008-09	175.00
2009-10	274.30

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water contamination include:-

- (i) Exploration conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic contaminants. CGWB has drilled 21 exploratory wells in arsenic affected areas of the State.
- (ii) Technical guidance provided by CGWB to the State agencies in tackling the problems of water quality and capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.
- (iii) Mass Awareness Programme and Water Management Training Programme in arsenic affected areas to educate the people for the purpose.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.

In addition, State Government of Uttar Pradesh have undertaken various mitigation measures in arsenic affected areas, which include provision of piped water supply, installation of arsenic treatment plants, etc. Similarly, in the State of West Bengal, the PHED has taken up different Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term measures/schemes utilizing both groundwater and surface water. Measures taken by Government of Bihar for quality problems include, testing of water samples, marking the affected structures as unsafe for drinking use, construction of deep bore wells (upto 125m depth) fitted with hand pumps to tap the Arsenic free deeper aquifer, multi village water supply scheme in Bhojpur district, etc.

(REFERENCE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1029 FOR 25.11.2009)

ANNEXURE

STATE-WISE RELEASE OF FUNDS BY MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROVIDING SAFE DRINKING WATER

(Rs. in lakh)					
S.No	State	Funds released under submission on Quality 09 for Normal Water Quality & Swajaldhara 2006-07	Funds released during 2008-10 for Normal Water Quality & Swajaldhara 2007-08	Funds allocation during 2009-	Funds allocation during 2009-
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3363.00	4623.00	37767.00	38953.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.90	178.00	15486.35	16425.00
3.	Assam	3590.39	11517.00	18756.80	27521.00
4.	Bihar	2246.06	15995.00	42538.00	43874.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	733.44	1790.00	12525.50	13452.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	410.00
7.	Gujarat	4056.72	9545.00	33893.00	28365.00
8.	Haryana	57.13	78.00	7575.00	10567.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	14082.00	11913.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	39512.00	33783.00
11.	Jharkhand	1951.82	2617.00	8033.00	16572.00
12.	Karnataka	12536.64	14815.00	43627.00	45547.00
13.	Kerala	311.00	2404.00	10697.00	10657.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2250.35	7970.00	37047.00	38210.00
15.	Maharashtra	2633.73	10045.00	64824.49	59055.00
16.	Manipur	4.00	0.00	4522.91	5621.00
17.	Meghalaya	15.00	0.00	6338.00	6424.00
18.	Mizoram	3.00	0.00	5019.26	4599.00
19.	Nagaland	16.00	43.00	4253.00	4745.00
20.	Orissa	1747.22	12303.00	29868.00	30806.00
21.	Punjab	724.67	3185.00	8656.00	8928.00
22.	Rajasthan	20600.00	29243.00	73839.00	83979.00
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	3045.00	1971.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	370.67	1170.00	28782.00	24941.00
25.	Tripura	364.48	1262.00	4100.82	5694.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4768.80	5309.00	60778.55	55669.00
27.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	8586.83	11096.00
28.	West Bengal	11170.83	18518.00	38939.00	40162.00
	Total	73566.85	152610.00	663092.51	679939.00