

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:13

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012

SAFE DRINKING WATER

Agarwal Shri Rajendra;Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

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

(a) whether fluoride, arsenic and other chemicals have been found in the groundwater contaminating drinking water in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government to supplement the efforts being made by the States for provision of safe drinking water?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in part (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 13 due for reply on 22.11.2012

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) As reported by the States/UTs on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, as on 01.04.2012, there were 1,04,160 habitations with one or more of their drinking water sources contaminated with excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity or nitrate, which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water. The State/UT-wise and contaminant-wise details of these habitations and population affected are at Annexure.

(c) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary allocation of Rs.10,500 crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2012-13. Up to 67 per cent of the NRDWP funds allocated to States on 50:50 Centre : State sharing basis (90:10 for North-East States and Jammu & Kashmir) can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country. Further, 5% of NRDWP funds are earmarked and allocated on 50:50 Centre : State sharing basis (90:10 for North East States and Jammu & Kashmir) to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water or with Japanese Encephalitis or Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. Technical assistance is provided to States through sharing information on technologies for treatment of contaminated water in Conferences, Exhibitions, meetings, Handbooks and visit of Technical officers. The Ministry has advised the States on adopting a two-pronged strategy viz., in the short-term to adopt in-situ treatment technologies for removal of specific contaminants and as a long term sustainable solution to provide safe drinking water from alternate safe surface/ groundwater sources. In addition to this, Government of India provides 3 per cent NRDWP funds on 100 per cent central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of district/ sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, hiring of trained manpower for the laboratories and providing field test kits/ refills for testing of drinking water quality to Gram Panchayats. Further up to 10 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which inter alia may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.