

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2274  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012  
URANIUM IN DRINKING WATER  
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether uranium has been detected in the drinking water in the rural areas of various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Yes Madam. As reported by Government of Punjab, out of 1,686 samples tested by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), 261 samples have exceeded the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) limit of 60 micrograms per liter for Uranium in drinking water sources. There are no reports received in this Ministry about Uranium contamination in drinking water sources from other States/ UTs.

(c): The Ministry provides financial and technical assistance under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement the efforts of the States for supplying drinking water through schemes like hand pumps and piped water supply schemes from safe sources and also towards cost of treatment units to remove Uranium from drinking water in rural areas. Punjab has been allocated Rs.90.33 crore in 2012-13 under NRDWP of which Rs.83.49 crore has been released so far.

In 2010-11, Rs.3.80 crore was released to the State for testing Uranium and heavy metals in drinking water sources.

An expert team constituted by the Government of Punjab comprising of senior officials from the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Science & Technology and Government of Punjab held detailed discussions on 24th July, 2012 and shortlisted suitable technologies for field trials and Research & Development (R&D).

The Government of India has decided to provide assistance to the Government of Punjab to set up an Advanced Testing laboratory for Uranium and heavy metals in SAS Nagar, Mohali for intensive monitoring.