

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2213
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2013
PRESENCE OF FLUORIDE AND ARSENIC IN GROUND WATER
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan

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

- (a) whether the quantity of fluoride and arsenic in ground water has increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard during the last eight years?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) As reported by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), it is carrying periodic monitoring of ground water quality through a network of 10714 monitoring wells, once every year to assess ground water quality on a regional scale. As per the findings of CGWB and the States of Bihar and West Bengal, eight States have excess concentration of Arsenic, beyond the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recommended maximum permissible limit of 0.05 milligram per litre (mg/l). Besides this, Fluoride in excess of BIS recommended maximum permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l has been reported from 19 States. The names of districts from where Fluoride and Arsenic in ground water have been reported in excess of BIS recommended maximum permissible limits are given at Annexure. The contaminations reported are mostly sporadic in nature and are geogenic.

Since in situ treatment of polluted aquifers is difficult, remedial measures are concentrated on providing alternate sources of water supply. The CGWB has assisted State Governments in identifying aquifers which are free from arsenic and fluoride. Additionally, the Central Pollution Control Board which also monitors the ground water quality at limited locations has (i) imposed standards for land disposal of wastewater and effluents for prevention of groundwater contamination and (ii) imposed standards for land disposal of all categories of wastes (hazardous waste, municipal solid waste, e-waste etc.)