

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1726

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

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

- (a) whether fluoride, arsenic and other chemicals have been found in the drinking water in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the survey conducted in this regard, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the arrangements made for testing of contaminated drinking water indicating the time-intervals/duration of testing the drinking water;
- (d) the targets set and achievements made in regard to the quality affected habitations during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (e) the allocation made and utilised for the purpose during the said period, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government to provide safe drinking water to all the habitations of the country?

Answer

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

(SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b): As reported by the State Governments on the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, as on 1/4/2012, there were 1.04 lakh rural habitations remaining to be covered with safe drinking water supply in the country. States report the quality affected habitations that have been identified by regular testing of drinking water sources through water quality testing laboratories. State/ UT-wise number of such remaining water quality affected habitations which inter alia include arsenic, fluoride and other chemical contamination as on 1/4/2012 is at Annex-I.

(c): 3% of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds allocated to the States are earmarked for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) activities on a 100% Central share basis which, inter alia, includes testing of drinking water sources at the Panchayat level by using simple field test kits, setting up of new district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories and upgrading of existing water quality testing laboratories. The State Governments have been advised to test chemical parameters in drinking water at least once in a year and for bacteriological parameters atleast twice in a year. As reported by the States on the IMIS, 24 State level laboratories, 728 district level laboratories and 1127 sub-district / block level water quality testing laboratories have been set up. The State/UT-wise details of the laboratories set up are at Annex-II.

(d): The number of water quality affected habitations targeted and covered by provision of safe drinking water during the last three years and in the current year, State/UT-wise, is at Annex-III.

(e) & (f): 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 supply 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 provision of safe drinking water 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. 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 may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers. Allocations made and expenditure reported by States under NRDWP during the last three years and during the current year as on 4/3/2013 is at Annex-IV. Technical assistance is provided to States through sharing information on technologies for treatment of contaminated water in Conferences, Exhibitions, meetings, Handbooks and visits 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.