

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1892  
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2009  
ARSENIC FREE WATER  
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that arsenic laden drinking water is being supplied in arsenic prone areas of the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take action to supply arsenic free water in such areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a) to (c): Arsenic contamination in ground water has been reported from 8 districts of West Bengal, 15 districts of Bihar and 28 districts of Uttar Pradesh. Central Ground Water Board has evolved suitable design of tube wells by cement sealing technique. Successful exploratory wells have been handed over free of cost to the concerned State agencies for utilization in their water supply schemes. So far a total of 20 exploratory tube wells have been constructed in Bihar, 20 in Uttar Pradesh and 122 in West Bengal. Besides these, a pilot scheme was executed in West Bengal successfully to dilute shallow arsenic contaminated aquifers by artificially recharging it through renovation of silted ponds and tanks making space for surplus surface water infiltration. Mass awareness campaigns have been organized in arsenic affected villages to raise level of awareness about the problems of arsenic contamination and precautionary measures to be adopted. In addition, the State Governments undertake mitigation measures for arsenic affected villages.