

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2285

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

HEAVY METAL IN DRINKING WATER

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

(a) whether the Government has achieved 100 per cent safe drinking water in some areas/habitations/districts affected by heavy metals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise, year-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance for provision of safe drinking water supply in the rural areas of the country under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

Under NRDWP, the Ministry focuses primarily on contamination of rural drinking water sources for 5 elements viz., arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrate affected habitations and monitors the coverage/ achievement of these habitations with safe drinking water facility as they are more evenly distributed in the country. There is no standard definition for "Heavy metals". In general, Heavy metals have a high atomic number, atomic weight and specific gravity and may include some of the metalloids like arsenic. The Ministry does not monitor achievements of these habitations affected with heavy metals at the Central level since they are restricted only to certain pockets in the country. However, heavy metals include arsenic and iron whose achievements are monitored at the Central level and as reported by the States, year-wise achievements of number of arsenic and iron affected habitations as reported by the States during the last 3 years and the current year (as on 16/8/2013) is at Annexure.