

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:778

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram; Hazari Shri Maheshwar ; Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav; Kaswan Shri Ram Singh; Punia Shri P.L.
; Saroj Smt. Sushila; Upadhyay Seema; Vardhan Shri Harsh; Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether the fluoride, arsenic and other chemicals have been found in the drinking water in various States including Delhi of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Union Government to provide safe drinking water to all the habitations of the country;
- (d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has pointed out the increase in project cost as the funds were not released to State Governments in time under the Programme;
- (e) if so, the details of the increase in project cost due to delayed release of funds; and
- (f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. In the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) developed by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the State Governments as on 1/4/2013 have reported 84,292 rural habitations with one or more drinking water sources contaminated with fluoride, arsenic, iron, salinity or nitrate. A Statement showing State/UT-wise numbers of such habitations where the rural population may be at risk of consuming unsafe drinking water is at Annexure.

(c) 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, States can utilize upto 67% of funds released to them for provision of safe drinking water in water quality affected habitations. 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked for Water Quality and allocated to those States with habitations affected by excess chemical contamination and with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome. In addition, 3% of funds allocated to the States are earmarked for water quality monitoring and surveillance 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.

Apart from NRDWP, the Ministry has also forwarded/recommended specific projects received from the State Governments to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for funding from external assistance viz., World Bank and JICA. World Bank funded water supply projects are currently functional in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand States while JICA funded water supply project is nearly under completion in Tamil Nadu State and JICA funded water supply projects are also under implementation in West Bengal and Rajasthan.

(d) & (e) As reported by the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), issues regarding drinking water quality have been reported to the Parliament in CAG's Audit Report No. 12 of 2008 for the period ending 2007 as Performance Audit of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Chapter-3 of the report cites State-specific findings on various deficiencies observed during implementation of works which included cases of time and cost over run.

(f) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the State Governments are vested with powers to plan, approve, implement and monitor drinking water supply projects. The Government of India releases funds to States as per pre-approved criteria. Funds are released to the States by the Ministry on the basis of the utilization of available funds and submission of pre-requisite documents like Utilization Certificate and Audit Report by the State Governments. States are responsible for delay in the implementation of projects and any cost escalation after the sanctioning of the project by State Governments either due to delay or change of scope or any other reason is to be borne by the State Governments.