GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013
CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER
Lal Shri Kirodi

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the areas of the country where excessive quantities of Arsenic, Nitrate and Fluoride are present in the ground water;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) proposes to take concrete measures to separate the said chemicals from water and ensure supply of safe drinking water to the said areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount released to the States/ UTs during the last year and the current year for the purpose?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) regularly monitors ground water quality of shallow aquifers on regional scale once every year during pre-monsoon (April/May). Arsenic, Fluoride and Nitrate contamination in ground water has been observed and reported in parts of some States during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring. Parts of eight States have reportedly excess concentration of Arsenic, nineteen States/UT have higher concentration of Fluoride, twenty States/UT have higher concentration of Nitrate beyond norms prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). State-wise and UT wise details are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), is a Regulatory Authority constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for regulation and control of ground water management and development in the Country. However, CGWB carries out exploratory drilling to delineate contaminant free aquifer zones and successful exploratory wells are handed over to the concerned agencies in the States for utilization by them. CGWB also provides technical guidance to State agencies in tackling the problem of water quality. Since in-situ treatment of contaminated aquifers due to presence of Arsenic, Fluoride, and Nitrate is difficult, remedial measures visualize provision of alternate sources of water supply.

(e) In view of the reply to part (c) & (d) above, question does not arise.