

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2678

ANSWERED ON:07.02.2014

HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO ARSENIC CONTAMINATED WATER

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of health problems and deaths due to consumption of arsenic contaminated water have been reported in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any research/study in this regard and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for the healthcare and treatment of people affected by arsenic contaminated water in the country; and
- (e) whether the Government has also undertaken any medical survey of the population living in and around the industrial plant site to detect any adverse effect of water contamination on their health and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): National level systematic information on cases due to consumption of arsenic contaminated water is not available. Drinking arsenic-rich water over a long period results in various ill effects on health including Arsenicosis.

(c) to (e): All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health (AIIPH), Kolkata undertook a survey under the Indo-Canada Environment Facility (ICEF) projects (1999-2007) in six Districts of West Bengal namely South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Bardwan, Nadia, Murshidabad and Malda covering about 400 villages. 957 cases of Arsenicosis were detected (2003-05) out of which 12 deaths were reported. In addition 40 villages of Sahebganj district of Jharkhand were also covered in which 32 cases were detected. In this project 14 different NGOs were involved and more than 100 Arsenic removal plants were installed and awareness programmes were organized in the selected districts.

Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India 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 facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary provision of Rs. 11,000 crores has been made for the NRDWP in 2013-14. Upto 67% of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country.

Government of India provides 3% NRDWP funds on 100% Central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance.