

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5541

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015

ARSENIC IN WATER

Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Kachhadia Shri Naranbhai;Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the maximum permissible limit of arsenic in drinking water recommended by the Bureau of Indian Standards is much higher than the limits fixed by the World Health Organisation (WHO); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a): Madam, as per Indian Standard for drinking water, IS 10500:2012, the acceptable limit for Arsenic has been specified as 0.01mg/l. This is in line with WHO guidelines for drinking water. The standard also prescribes a permissible limit of 0.05mg/l in the absence of any alternate source of drinking water.

(b): Draft amendment to this standard to remove the permissible limit of 0.05mg/l is under consideration and final decision will be taken by the concerned Sectional Committee, shortly.