

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6811

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015

CONTAMINATION OF WATER

Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that fluoride and nitrate concentration in ground water in several States is more than the permissible level of World Health Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the permissible and present quantity of each present in ground water, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey with regard to the quality of ground water in various States in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details of the outcome thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam. Ground water quality data generated during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) indicates that the ground water in parts of twenty States is contaminated by Fluoride and in twenty one States by Nitrate in excess of World Health Organization(WHO) guidelines. According to guideline, values for contaminants recommended by WHO (2011) for drinking water standards, Fluoride should not be more than 1.5 mg/l and nitrate should not be more than 50 mg/l. BIS limit for Fluoride is same and for Nitrate it is 45 mg/l as against 50 mg/l prescribed by WHO. State-wise range of concentration of Nitrate and Fluoride present in ground water with reference to BIS limit is given at Annexure.

(c) & (d) Ground water quality monitoring indicates that apart from Fluoride and Nitrate, ten States have excess concentration of Arsenic, twenty four States have higher concentration of Iron and fifteen States have higher concentration of Heavy Metals such as Lead, Chromium and Cadmium beyond norms prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS-2012). Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MoDWS) has informed that 20% of the allocated funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are earmarked for water quality problems. Further, the States may also utilize upto 67% of funds released under NRDWP for improving water quality of ground and surface water. Also, as a long term measure, all the State Governments have been advised to provide piped water supply from alternate safe sources to all water quality affected habitations with priority to cover Fluoride and Arsenic affected habitations. As a short term measure, the States were advised to set up community water treatment plants in all remaining Arsenic, Fluoride, Heavy Metals, toxic elements, pesticides and fertilizers affected habitations, providing 8-10 lpcd(liter per capita per day) of safe drinking water on or before March, 2017.

CGWB carries out exploratory drilling to delineate contaminant free aquifer zones and successful exploratory wells are handed over to the concerned State Agencies for utilization. CGWB also provides technical guidance to State Agencies in tackling the problem of water quality.