

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:62  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2015  
DEATHS DUE TO CONTAMINATED WATER  
Jena Shri Rabindra Kumar;Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

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

- (a) the number of cases of contaminated water related diseases/infections reported in the country during the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the number of deaths caused by intake of arsenic and fluoride contaminated drinking water and the endemic areas inflicted with arsenic and fluoride identified during the above period, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to combat contaminated drinking water related health problems, particularly in the arsenic and fluoride endemic areas during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the financial and technical assistance provided and utilized for the aforesaid purpose during the said period, State/ UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial group to look into the issue and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 62 FOR 27 FEBRUARY, 2015

(a) Consumption of contaminated drinking water can cause diseases such as Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Enteric Fever (Typhoid), Cholera, Viral Hepatitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome. The number of cases of water borne diseases reported under IDSP during the year 2014-15 is given in Annexure 1.

(b) Intake of Fluoride and Arsenic contaminated drinking water leads to various clinical complications at times causing death. These clinical complications may also arise because of other reasons as well. There are, therefore, obvious difficulties and data is not maintained Centrally. As per information provided by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, 14,132 habitations are affected by contamination of fluoride and 1991 habitations are affected by Arsenic. The details are at Annexure-II- A and II-B.

(c) & (d) Provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to control diseases caused by drinking of contaminated water. Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the country. Further, 5% of NRDWP Funds are earmarked and allocated to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water and with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts. Up to 67% of the NRDWP fund allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas. In addition, Government of India provides 3% NRDWP funds on 100% Central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up gradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc. The State/UT wise details of releases made to Arsenic and Fluoride affected States are at Annexure-III.

In addition to that, Government of India also started the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) in the 11th Five Year Plan. So far, 111 districts have been covered under the programme, the important components of the programme are surveillance of fluorosis in the community, capacity building in the form of training and manpower support, establishment of diagnostic facilities, management of fluorosis cases including treatment, surgery, rehabilitation, and health education. Details of the fund released during the current year 2014-15 under NPPCF is given in Annexure-IV.

Further, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, provides technical assistance to State/UT Governments on prevention and control of water-borne diseases in carrying out investigation of outbreaks of such diseases under IDSP. At the National level, NCDC also coordinates laboratory support for outbreak investigations, besides conducting regular training courses for development of trained manpower. Details of funds released and expenditure for the year 2014-15 state/UT wise are at Annexure- V.

(e) A Core Committee on "Mitigation and Remedy of Arsenic Menace in India '11" was constituted under the chairmanship of Director,

National Institute of Hydrology (NIH) with members from various Central and State Government organizations in December, 2013. The Committee recommended that Arsenic related activities at the Centre should be dealt under a single umbrella having responsibility with the Ministry of Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation (MoDW&S) Further, as per the recommendations in the Meeting of Group of Officers (GOO) on 28th November, 2014 on the subject of 'Occurrence of High Arsenic Content in Ground Water', an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted under the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR.

The Indian Council of Medical Research has constituted a Task Force on Fluorosis to address fluorosis issues related to prevention and control strategy, defloration techniques, dental fluorosis and researchable issues. The Task Force has identified certain issues like indigenous indexing for dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis and also issues of fluorosis endemicity, prevention and control strategies.