

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2903
ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN GROUND WATER

2903. SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures/steps during the last three years and the current year to encourage scientists to develop any mechanism/ method to monitor and remove the toxic substances like arsenic in the ground water; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND
GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. As per information received, Department of Science & Technology has supported 20 projects to monitor and remove toxic contaminants in ground water during the last 3 years and current year. These projects relate to monitoring and removal of PPCP, Arsenic, Fluoride etc.

Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR sponsors research projects by funding the academic/research institutes through three Indian National Committees on Surface Water, Ground Water and Climate Change under its planned scheme "Research & Development Programme in Water Sector". Under the Indian National Committee on Ground Water (INCGW), presently, there is an ongoing project on removal of arsenic contamination of ground water named "Study and investigations on the Marble Waste Material (Marble Slurry) to remove the Arsenic from ground water". Another project on ground water quality sponsored by INCGW named 'Spatio-temporal Modeling of Ground Water Quality using Artificial Neural Network' has been recently completed.

Besides, ground water quality is being monitored on annual basis by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) through a network of monitoring wells spread across the country. The results are made available through various reports as well as on web platform (www.india-wris.nisc.gov.in), in public domain for use by various stakeholders.

Further, under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) of CGWB, special attention is being given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water. CGWB has also constructed exploratory wells in Arsenic affected areas in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh, tapping Arsenic-Free aquifer zones, using state of the art technology.
