

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2902
ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

INCREASE OF ARSENIC IN BRAHMAPUTRA RIVER WATER

2902. SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about increase of arsenic level in waters of Brahmaputra river and its tributaries and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the reasons for the said increase in arsenic level have been ascertained and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the number of cancer and kidney patients has been rapidly increasing in the North Eastern Region as a result of the same; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken by the Government to check the increasing arsenic level in the said river?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (d) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring water quality of river at 429 key locations covering 11 major river basins in India. Out of 429 monitoring location, CWC is measuring Water Quality in Brahmaputra Basin at 55 key locations covering 26 rivers including Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

According to the water quality analysis carried out by CWC during Dec-2015 to Aug-2017, Arsenic level in Brahmaputra and its tributaries have been observed to be within permissible limit at all 55 locations as per Drinking water standards for Trace & Toxic metals (BIS: 10500-2012). The details are enclosed at **Annexure**. As such, the increase in number of Cancer and Kidney patients, as mentioned in the question may not be attributable to the waters of Brahmaputra river and its tributaries.

Arsenic Concentration in Brahmaputra & It's Tributaries obtained during Dec-2015 to Aug-2017 of CWC

Annexure-I

S.No	Water Quality Station	River Name	Min (mg/L)	Max (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
1	Beki Road bridge	Beki	0.0031	0.0031	0.0031
2	Pancharatna	Brahmaputra	0.0001	0.0018	0.0008
3	Pandu	Brahmaputra	0.0004	0.0021	0.0011
4	Tezpur	Brahmaputra	0.0001	0.0036	0.0020
5	Bhomoraguri	Brahmaputra	0.0003	0.0044	0.0022
6	Neamatighat	Brahmaputra	0.0006	0.0055	0.0027
7	Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra	0.0004	0.0132	0.0044
8	Chenimari	Buridehing	0.0004	0.0025	0.0012
9	Margherita	Buridehing	0.0001	0.0036	0.0015
10	Naharkatia	Buridehing	0.0011	0.0037	0.0019
11	Udaipur	Burideing/Tirap	0.0001	0.0015	0.0008
12	Dillighat	Desang	0.0004	0.0037	0.0018
13	Nanglamoraghat	Desang	0.0004	0.0131	0.0049
14	Desangpani	Desang	0.0001	0.0133	0.0044
15	Golaghat	Dhansari	0.0004	0.0039	0.0020
16	Numaligarh	Dhansari	0.0003	0.0184	0.0058
17	Bokajan	Dhansari	0.0001	0.0209	0.0062
18	Gelabil	Dhansari/Doyang	0.0003	0.0034	0.0018
19	Sonapur	Digaru	0.0000	0.0019	0.0011
20	Sivasagar	Dikhow	0.0000	0.0077	0.0029
21	Bihubar	Dikhow	0.0000	0.0145	0.0044
22	Dudhnai	Dudhnai	0.0011	0.0075	0.0030
23	Kokrajhar	Gaurang	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
24	Mathabhanga	Jaldhaka	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024
25	Bhalukpong	Jiabharali	0.0003	0.0119	0.0043
26	Jiabharali NT-Road Crossing	Jiabharali	0.0001	0.0156	0.0052
27	Seppa	Kameng	0.0000	0.0101	0.0033
28	Kheronighat	Kopili	0.0004	0.0026	0.0015
29	Dharamtul	Kopili	0.0001	0.0038	0.0019
30	Jagibhakatgaon	Kopili	0.0003	0.0046	0.0019
31	Kampur	Kopili	0.0005	0.0074	0.0029
32	Kulsi	Kulsi	0.0001	0.0026	0.0011
33	Tezu	Lohit	0.0002	0.0027	0.0016
34	Dholabazar	Lohit	0.0004	0.0051	0.0022
35	Manas N.H. Crossing	Manas	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030
36	Namsai	Noa-dehing	0.0003	0.0033	0.0016
37	Miao	Noa-dehing	0.0002	0.0115	0.0040
38	Pagladiya N.T. Road Crossing	Pagladiya	0.0001	0.0020	0.0011
39	Matunga	Pagladiya/Kalanadi	0.0004	0.0022	0.0013
40	Puthimari D.R.F	Puthimari	0.0001	0.0021	0.0010
41	Puthimari NH road crossing	Puthimari	0.0001	0.0029	0.0012
42	Suklai	Puthimari/Suklai	0.0001	0.0016	0.0008
43	Ranganadi NT-Road Crossing	Ranganadi	0.0003	0.0058	0.0030
44	Sankosh	Sankosh	0.0030	0.0030	0.0030

45	Barobisha	Sankosh/Raidak-II	0.0020	0.0020	0.0020
46	Passighat	Siang	0.0007	0.0030	0.0018
47	Chouldhowaghat	Subansiri	0.0001	0.0082	0.0030
48	Badatighat	Subansiri	0.0003	0.0086	0.0036
49	Domohani	Teesta	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
50	TeestaBazar	Teesta	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
51	Mekhliganj	Teesta	0.0031	0.0031	0.0031
52	Hassimara	Torsa	0.0019	0.0019	0.0019
53	Ghugumari	Torsa	0.0027	0.0027	0.0027
54	Chepan	Torsa/Raidak-I	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
55	Tufanganj	Torsa/Raidak-I	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032

As per Drinking Water BIS: 10500-2012 Standards for Arsenic	Arsenic (mg/L)
Acceptable Limit	0.01
Permissible limit in the absence of Alternative source	0.05