

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 479
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019**

Iron and Arsenic Contents in Drinking Water

***479. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:**

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state :

(a) whether drinking water available to the people in Kishanganj district through water wells/hand pumps has been found to be unsafe and unhealthy due to the presence of high iron and arsenic contents and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has any schemes to provide iron/arsenic free drinking water in and around Kishanganj district and all other districts of Bihar facing the same problem; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) to (c) A Statement of reply is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 479 due for
reply on 25.07.2019**

(a) As reported by the Govt. of Bihar in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of this Ministry, there is no arsenic affected rural habitation in district. The block wise details of 324 nos of iron affected rural habitations in kishanganj district is as placed below:

S.No.	Block Name	No. Of Iron affected habitations
1	Bahadurganj	56
2	Dighalbank	51
3	Kishanganj	34
4	Kochadhamin	52
5	Pothia	102
6	Terhagachh	11
7	Thakurganj	18
	Total	324

(b) & (c) Drinking water supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for taking up schemes in water quality affected areas on priority including arsenic/iron affected areas. An amount of Rs. 234.84 Crores was released to Govt. of Bihar under NRDWP during the year 2018-19.

During March 2016, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, an amount of Rs. 1000 Crores was released to various Arsenic & Fluoride affected States/UTs for installation of Community water purification plants. An amount of Rs. 22.83 Cr. was provided to Bihar.

In addition to this, this Ministry had launched the National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22nd March 2017 under NRDWP to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 Arsenic / Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country. An amount of Rs. 171.96 Cr. has been released to Bihar so far. 1077 Arsenic & 1043 Fluoride affected rural habitations in the State were targeted under NWQSM.
