

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5255
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019**

Contamination of Water in Bihar

†5255. SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether drinking water has been found contaminated with arsenic and fluoride in many areas of certain districts of Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of effects on health on drinking of such contaminated water; and
- (d) the measures being taken and plans being contemplated by the Government to provide clean drinking water and to make people aware about prevention from these diseases?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, as reported by Government of Bihar in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of this Ministry, the district-wise number of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations is placed at **Annexure**.

(c) Fluorosis, a public health problem, is caused by excess intake of fluorides through drinking water/food products/industrial pollutants, over a prolonged period. It causes severe health-related disorders such as dental fluorosis, skeletal fluorosis and non-skeletal fluorosis. Arsenic is a carcinogenic element and is associated with skin, lung, bladder, kidney, and liver cancer. Dermatological, developmental, neurological, respiratory, cardiovascular, immunological, and endocrine effects are also evident.

(d) 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/fluoride affected areas.

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.

Moreover, States can utilize upto 5% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme funds for Support Activities which inter alia includes Information, Education and Communication (IEC) of Rural Drinking Water Supply as per NRDWP guidelines.

Annexure

**Statement referred in the Reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5255 due
for reply on 25.07.2019**

The district wise number of Arsenic and Fluoride affected rural habitations in Bihar

S.No.	District	Fluoride Habitations	Arsenic Habitations
1	Araria	3	0
2	Arwal	0	0
3	Aurangabad	29	0
4	Banka	312	0
5	Begusarai	0	222
6	Bhagalpur	0	96
7	Bhojpur	0	0
8	Buxar	0	9
9	Darbhanga	0	11
10	Gaya	8	0
11	Gopalganj	0	0
12	Jamui	32	0
13	Jehanabad	0	0
14	Kaimur (bhabua)	12	0
15	Katihar	0	1
16	Khagaria	0	40
17	Kishanganj	0	0
18	Lakhisarai	0	50
19	Madhepura	0	0
20	Madhubani	0	0
21	Munger	52	147
22	Muzaffarpur	0	0
23	Nalanda	5	0
24	Nawada	16	0
25	PashchimChampan	0	0
26	Patna	0	0
27	PurbaChampan	0	0
28	Purnia	0	0
29	Rohtas	123	0
30	Saharsa	0	0
31	Samastipur	0	35
32	Saran	0	0
33	Sheikhpura	113	0
34	Sheohar	0	0
35	Sitamarhi	0	0
36	Siwan	0	0
37	Supaul	0	0
38	Vaishali	0	193
Total		705	804

Source: IMIS, DDWS