

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER
Jagannath Dr. M., Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several lakhs of people residing in rural areas are forced to consume highly contaminated drinking water with fluoride, iron, nitrate, arsenic and saline salts;
- (b) if so, the areas identified in the country where the contamination is beyond permissible limits;
- (c) whether the Union Government along with State Governments have initiated any schemes to reduce the contamination in drinking water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the success achieved in this regard;
- (e) whether any foreign assistance has been sought by the Union Government in this regard;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the funds proposed to be allocated to various States for supply of uncontaminated drinking water?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (g) :A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (g) OF REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25/11/2005

(a) & (b) No, Sir. 96.13% of the 14,22,303 rural habitations in the country have been fully covered, and 3.55 % partially covered with safe drinking water supply as per the stipulated norms. However, due to over-exploitation of groundwater and other factors some of the drinking water sources become chemically contaminated and unsafe. The quality of drinking water of various sources is periodically monitored by the District Water Quality Testing Laboratories with reference to the water quality standards laid down by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) as per IS:10500 standard. In some habitations, dual water supply policy is promoted and State Governments have been advised to mark unsafe/contaminated drinking water source with red paint to ensure that people do not use the same for drinking and cooking purposes but can be used for other purposes like washing and bathing. The number of water quality affected habitations in the country as on 31.3.2004, as reported by State Governments in response to water quality survey ordered in March 2000, is 2,16,968. State-wise details are given in the Annex-I.

(c) & (d) Rural drinking water is a State subject. Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply of drinking water as per the stipulated norms. For tackling water quality problems due to chemical contamination a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1992-93 under ARWSP with funding pattern of 75:25 between the Centre and States. With effect from 1/4/1998, the State Governments have been delegated powers to sanction projects under the Sub- Mission programme for which funds earmarked for water quality are to be utilized. 15% of ARWSP funds released to States are earmarked for tackling water quality problems, and 5 % for taking up source sustainability measures like rainwater harvesting and water recharging. These measures, inter-alia, reduce contamination of ground water based drinking water sources. Fully covered States can utilize more funds for tackling water quality problems with the approval of Government of India. Following water quality tackling measures were taken up by the State/Central Governments under the Sub- Mission Programme: -

Setting up of de-fluoridation plants, de-salination plants, arsenic removal plants for existing ground water schemes, treatment and filtration plants.

Providing Community de-fluoridation plants and domestic level filters.

Aeration for treatment of iron contaminated water.

Marking of safe and unsafe sources and social mobilization for usage of safe sources for drinking and cooking purposes.

Single and multi-village piped water schemes from alternative distant ground water/surface source.

The States have also proposed that in future they would adopt an integrated approach to cover quality affected habitations by utilizing treatment units/domestic filters, rooftop rainwater harvesting structures, piped water schemes and recharging/ strengthening of existing safe source and watershed based activities. The Twelfth Finance Commission has earmarked funds for tackling water quality problems in the acutely affected States e.g. Andhra Pradesh (Rs.325 crore), West Bengal (Rs.600 crore), Rajasthan (Rs.150 crore) and Haryana (Rs.100 crore). In addition, policy measures have been initiated to increase the funds earmarked for water quality in the ARWSP from 15% to 20% and to allocate the same to the affected States in a focused manner. A community based rural drinking water monitoring and surveillance programme has also been pilot- tested in four districts of the country for scaling up throughout the country. Various quality tackling measures undertaken by the State Governments supported by the Central Government result in reduction in number of quality affected habitations however, side by side some new quality affected habitations emerge from time to time due to over- exploitation of ground water. State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat have reported coverage and reduction in number of quality affected habitations.

(e) & (f) A Concept Paper for seeking external financial assistance for tackling water quality problems has been posed to the World Bank. The projects received from Tamil Nadu and Punjab for external financial assistance in rural drinking water sector including water quality problems have also been taken up with the World Bank.

(g) The State-wise allocation of ARWSP funds for the year 2005-2006 is given in the Annex – 2. 15% of these funds are earmarked for tackling water quality.

Annex - 1

WATER QUALITY AFFECTED HABITATIONS REPORTED BY STATES (On the basis of survey ordered in March 2000 and as reported by States on 31/3/2004)

S No.	State/UT	Habitations Affected by	Fluoride	Salinity	Iron	Arsenic	Nitrate	Multiple	Total	
1	Andhra Pradesh		3072	973	5	0	0	0	40502	
2	Arunachal Pradesh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	Assam		0	0	7585	0	0	534	8119	
4	Bihar		43	0	629	45	50	9	776	
5	Chattisgarh		17	0	61	4932	11	0	0	5021
6	Goa		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	Gujarat		4341	0	2575	0	0	1336	465	8717
8	Haryana		144	0	72	0	0	0	145	361
9	Himachal Pradesh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Jharkhaand		15	0	113	0	1	39	168	
11	Jammu & Kashmir		0	0	49	0	0	0	49	
12	Karnataka		5838	0	4460	6633	0	4077	0	21008
13	Kerala		34	86	564	0	78	105	867	
14	Madhya Pradesh		3764	0	604	856	0	0	157	5381
15	Maharashtra		800	0	2077	196	0	296	418	3787
16	Manipur		0	0	0	37	0	0	0	37
17	Meghalaya		0	0	160	0	0	0	160	
18	Mizoram		0	0	26	0	0	0	26	
19	Nagaland		0	0	157	0	0	0	157	
20	Orissa		504	0	771	30979	0	0	0	32254
21	Punjab		613	0	1291	189	0	0	0	2093
22	Rajasthan		8992	0	5428	131	0	7882	18639	41072
23	Sikkim		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	Tamilnadu		737	0	674	1058	0	237	2868	5574
25	Tripura		0	0	6850	0	0	181	7031	
26	Uttaranchal		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Uttar Pradesh		1046	295	2198	0	1	1522	5062	
28	West Bengal		1346	0	4126	54711	4973	0	0	65156
29	A & N Islands		0	0	16	0	0	10	26	
30	D & N Haveli		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	Daman & Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32	Delhi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Lakshadweep		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Pondicherry		0	2	14	0	0	0	16	
35	Chandigarh		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total		31306	23495	118088	5029	13958	25092	2,16,968	

Annex-2

State Wise Allocation under ARWSP - Normal During 2005-06

S.No Name of the State Allocation (Rs in Lakhs)

1	Andhra Pradesh	20902.00
2	Bihar	15324.00
3	Chhattiasgarh	5154.00
4	Goa	193.00
5	Gujarat	11186.00
6	Haryana	3512.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	8585.00
8	J&K	19908.00
9	Jharkhand	5529.00
10	Karnataka	15470.00
11	Kerala	5386.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	15101.00
13	Maharashtra	27591.00
14	Orrisa	12405.00
15	Punjab	3642.00
16	Rajasthan	31440.00
17	Tamil Nadu	11875.00
18	Uttaranchal	5725.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	24764.00
20	West Bengal	13308.00
21	A&N Islands	9.37
22	Chandigarh	0.00
23	D&N Haveli	6.25
24	Daman & Diu	0.00
25	Delhi	4.69
26	Lakshadweep	0.00
27	Pondicheery	4.69
	Sub Total (A)	257025.00
28	Arunachal Pradesh	9060.00
29	Assam	15280.00
30	Manipur	3110.00
31	Meghalaya	3583.00
32	Mizoram	2569.00
33	Nagland	2637.00
34	Sikkim	1083.00
35	Tripura	3178.00
	Sub Total (B)	40500.00
	Total (A+B)	297525.00

Allocation Position Under ARWSP -DDP

1	Andhra Pradesh	130.00
2	Gujarat	1153.00
3	Haryana	78.00
4	Himachal Pradesh	2020.00
5	J&K	165.00
6	Karnataka	2085.00
7	Rajasthan	12594.00
	Sub Total (C)	18225.00
	Total (A+B+C)	315750.00