

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1761

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has carried out any study on tap water as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated November 11, 2006;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the study;
- (c) its implications on human body; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has informed that it had clarified the position to all concerned about facts pertaining to the tap water supply in Delhi, during July, 2006, relating to the levels of all four individual Trihalomethanes (THMs) and Total Trihalomethanes (THMs). The levels of individual THMs as well as Total THMs at tap water points have been found within World Health Organisation (WHO) Drinking Water Guidelines as well as other International Standards of United States Environment Protection Agency (USEPA), Environment Canada and European Union.

(c) & (d) The prolonged consumption of potable water containing Trihalomethane compounds exceeding the limits specified under Drinking Water Guidelines, may pose carcinogenic risk and other health problems. However, the levels of Trihalomethanes in Drinking Water in Delhi are not cause of concern because these were found well within the Drinking Water Guidelines.