

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 341
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER

341. SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA
SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY

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

- (a) whether many scientists have found widespread uranium contamination in ground water from aquifers across many States in the country much above the WHO provisional standard and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether presence of fluoride, arsenic, mercury, other harmful chemicals and metals has also been noticed in the ground water in various States of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Union Government on aforesaid issues;
- (d) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to check the prevalence of the said chemicals and metals in India's ground water with the help of any foreign expertise; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) Studies carried out by various Government agencies like Atomic Mineral Department, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Department of Water supply and Sanitation (DWSS), Govt of Punjab etc indicated the presence of uranium contamination in ground water in some parts of 10 States viz. Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal. Further, as per the study carried out by scientists from United States in association with Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments of Rajasthan and Gujarat, prevalence of uranium concentrations, above the World Health Organization provisional guideline value of 30 µg/l, have been recorded in some localized pockets in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

(b) to (e) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors ground water quality periodically to ascertain the magnitude and extent of different contaminants in ground water. The ground water quality data is shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures. States-wise details of affected districts with ground water contamination by different chemical constituents are given at **Annexure**.

Government of Punjab has reported that reverse osmosis plants are being installed in areas where heavy metals are found more than the permissible limits.

CGWB carries out exploratory drilling to delineate contamination free aquifer zones. Successful wells are handed over to the State Governments for purposeful utilization.

Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute and operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (b) to (e) of Unstarred Q.No. 341 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 19.07.2018 regarding “Contamination of Ground Water”

States Wise Details of Affected Districts with Ground Water Contamination by different Chemical Constituents									
Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	Salinity (EC above 3000 micro mhos/ cm) (EC : Electrical Conductivity)	Fluoride (above 1.5 mg/l)	Nitrate (above 45 mg/l)	Arsenic (above 0.01 mg/l)	Iron (above 1mg/l)	Heavy metals: Lead (above 0.01 mg/l)	Cadmium (above 0.003 mg/l)	Chromium (above 0.05 mg/l)
1	Andhra Pradesh	11	11	13	3	7			
2	Arunachal Pradesh					4			
3	Assam		6		19	18			
4	Bihar		13	10	23	19			
5	Chhattisgarh		13	12	1	4	1	1	1
6	Delhi	7	7	8	2		3	1	4
7	Goa					2			
8	Gujarat	21	19	21	12	6			
9	Haryana	15	20	19	15	17	17	7	1
10	Himachal Pradesh			6	1				
11	Jammu & Kashmir		2	4	3	6	3	1	
12	Jharkhand		12	11	1	6	1		
13	Karnataka	29	29	22	2	22			
14	Kerala	4	5	11		15	2		1
15	Madhya Pradesh	16	39	50	8	42	16		
16	Maharashtra	20	17	30		20	19		
17	Manipur				2	1			
18	Meghalaya					3			
19	Nagaland					1			
20	Odisha	7	25	28	1	21			1
21	Punjab	9	19	20	10	9	6	8	10
22	Rajasthan	30	33	33	1	33	4		
23	Tamil Nadu	23	19	27	9	2	3	1	5
24	Telangana	7	9	10	1	8	2	1	1
25	Tripura					4			
26	Uttar Pradesh	9	30	46	29	15	10	2	4
27	Uttarakhand			3					
28	West Bengal	4	7	2	9	15	6	2	2
	UTs								
1	Andaman & Nicobar					1			
2	Chandigarh								
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli								
4	Daman & Diu				1				
5	Puducherry								
	TOTAL	212	335	386	153	301	93	24	30
