

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.03.2010
ANSWERED ON
USE OF ARSENIC CONTAMINATED WATER IN THE COUNTRY .

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Smt. Viplove Thakur

Will the Minister of COAL HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government is aware that the arsenic contaminated water is being used by the people across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to launch campaign for spreading intensive education and community awareness among the people to prevent the continued or increased use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking and cooking purpose; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(MS. AGATHA SANGMA)

(a) to (d) State Governments have reported 9,504 rural habitations suffering with arsenic contamination in ground-water based drinking water sources as on 1/4/2009 in the online Integrated Management Information System of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India assists the State Governments technically and financially in providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, the States may utilize upto 20% of funds allocated to States for tackling water quality problems, including arsenic contamination of ground water. The State Governments are empowered to plan, design and implement water supply schemes.

Also, upto 2% of NRDWP funds allocated to States is now available for support activities which, inter alia, include launching of state specific campaign for spreading intensive education and community awareness among the people to prevent the continued or increased use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking and cooking purpose.