

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2330  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2017**

**Contaminated Drinking Water**

2330. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to water has been recognised as a Fundamental Right by the Supreme Court of India and again in the Model Bill on Groundwater and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether 3.42 lakh habitations are receiving inadequate drinking water and 59,881 habitations where quality of water is affected with contaminants like Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron according to the 23rd report of the Standing Committee of Rural Development and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether according to the Committee the funds are half of the proposed amount for rural drinking water and inadequate for attaining 50% rural coverage by 2017 and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any new plan for ensuring safe drinking water to each citizen and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Government would consider formulating Water Quality Index similar to Air Quality Index to inform citizens of quality of water being consumed and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

(a) Supreme Court has interpreted that right to water is fundamental to life. However, Supreme Court has not recognized right to water as such as a fundamental right.

The current Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground water prepared and duly approved by Ministry of Water Resources in January 2005 does not recognize right to drinking water as a fundamental right.

(b) It is a fact that as per the 23<sup>rd</sup> report of the Standing Committee of Rural Development, there were 3.42 lakh partially covered habitations (receiving inadequate drinking water) and 59,881 water quality affected habitations as per the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) data as on 17/3/2016. This data is dynamic in nature and as per IMIS data as on 10/3/2017, there are now 3.30 lakh partially covered

habitations and 64,094 water quality affected habitations. The State-wise break-up of partially covered habitations as on 10/03/2017 is at Annexure-I and the State-wise number of water quality affected habitations which are yet to be provided safe drinking water as on 10/3/2017 is at Annexure-II.

(c) The budgetary allocation under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for the year 2017-18 is Rs 6,050 crore. However, the percentage of population covered with piped water supply in rural India as on 10/3/2017 is 53.52% and exceeded the target of 50% to be achieved by 2017.

(d) The centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme continues to assist the States technically and financially in providing safe water. A new component of National Water Quality Sub-Mission has been added under NRDWP which aims at providing focused funding only to arsenic and fluoride affected rural population for providing safe drinking water preferably through surface water based piped water supply schemes. Funds required for enroute non-arsenic non-fluoride affected population has to be met out fully by the concerned State Government.

(e) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India is not planning to introduce water quality index as a measure of pollution because safe drinking water has its own standard set by Bureau of Indian Standards in its IS-2010500-2012 and its subsequent amendments, which again has been derived taking help of the World Health Organization guidelines.

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Annexure-I referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2330 due for reply on 16/03/2017

State-wise number of partially covered habitations as on 10/3/2017 which have access to safe drinking water but less than the norm of 40 litres per capita per day

S.No.	Name of the State/ UT	Total No of Habitations	No of Partially Covered Habitations
1	ANDAMAN and NICOBAR	400	76
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	48342	14783
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	7577	4407
4	ASSAM	88099	24632
5	BIHAR	110234	41170
6	CHHATTISGARH	74647	3229
7	GOA	347	2
8	GUJARAT	36066	0
9	HARYANA	7948	229
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	53604	11910
11	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	15958	7159
12	JHARKHAND	120067	3826
13	KARNATAKA	60248	30026
14	KERALA	11883	7828
15	MADHYA PRADESH	128067	74
16	MAHARASHTRA	100066	11159
17	MANIPUR	2868	605
18	MEGHALAYA	10475	8788
19	MIZORAM	738	291
20	NAGALAND	1530	756
21	ODISHA	156468	26421
22	PUDUCHERRY	266	113
23	PUNJAB	15384	2460
24	RAJASTHAN	121648	45652
25	SIKKIM	2084	1353
26	TAMIL NADU	100204	7074
27	TELANGANA	24582	9840
28	TRIPURA	8723	1822
29	UTTAR PRADESH	260801	1074
30	UTTARAKHAND	39209	17485
31	WEST BENGAL	105905	46622
<b>Total</b>		<b>1714438</b>	<b>330866</b>
<b>Percentage</b>			<b>19.3</b>

Annexure-II referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred question no. 2330 due for reply on 16/03/2017

State-wise number of water quality affected habitations as on 10/3/2017 which are yet to be provided safe drinking water

S.No.	Name of the State/ UT	Contamination Wise Number Of Habitations affected						
		Total	Fluoride	Arsenic	Iron	Salinity	Nitrate	Heavy Metal
1	ANDAMAN and NICOBAR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	517	442	0	0	71	4	0
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	388	0	341	47	0	0	0
4	ASSAM	9757	65	3706	5890	0	0	6
5	BIHAR	4438	103	1065	2355	1	4	0
6	CHATTISGARH	853	75	0	774	3	1	0
7	GOA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GUJARAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	HARYANA	247	135	45	0	7	0	0
10	HIMACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	9	0	7	2	0	0	0
12	JHARKHAND	3166	992	126	2041	1	6	0
13	KARNATAKA	1492	853	20	97	72	449	1
14	KERALA	438	73	3	223	102	37	0
15	MADHYA PRADESH	126	109	0	5	12	0	0
16	MAHARASHTRA	364	91	1	19	149	104	0
17	MANIPUR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	MEGHALAYA	11	0	1	10	0	0	0
19	MIZORAM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	NAGALAND	43	0	0	43	0	0	0
21	ODISHA	1819	62	2	1625	127	3	0
22	PUDUCHERRY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	PUNJAB	3121	281	475	221	17	14	1986
24	RAJASTHAN	20350	6491	3	5	12836	1015	0
25	SIKKIM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	TAMIL NADU	255	0	0	204	50	1	0
27	TELANGANA	1406	1041	0	36	183	146	0
28	TRIPURA	2511	0	0	2511	0	0	0
29	UTTAR PRADESH	546	200	262	1	82	1	0
30	UTTARAKHAND	16	0	0	13	0	3	0
31	WEST BENGAL	12221	1019	7479	3598	124	1	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>64094</b>	<b>13092</b>	<b>13536</b>	<b>19720</b>	<b>13837</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>1993</b>