

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

HEALTH HAZARDS DUE TO ARSENIC CONTAMINATION

1169. SHRI BHARAT SINGH:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of special facilities being provided/proposed to be provided by the Government to the users of arsenic water in Balia district of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether the Government is contemplating to provide treatment by the specialists in mobile hospitals/ dispensaries to give immediate relief to the patients suffering from problems associated with the use of arsenic water; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistant through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Government 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 with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, Government of India had released Rs 1,000 Crore in March, 2016 for community water purification plants and for the last mile connectivity of surface water based piped water supply schemes in West Bengal and Rajasthan. Rs 13.39 Crore was released to Government of Uttar Pradesh for installation of Community Water Purification Plants. As on date, 12 Community Water Purification Plants have been installed in Balia District of Uttar Pradesh.

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Further, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched the National Water Quality Sub-mission (NWQSM) on 22nd March, 2017 under NRDWP to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 arsenic/fluoride affected habitations over a span of 4 years. During 2016-17, Rs 26.31 Crore has been released under NWQSM to Government of Uttar Pradesh to complete 47 ongoing schemes. Out of 47 ongoing schemes, 05 schemes are in Balia District.

(b)& (c): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines for 'Detection, Prevention & Management of Arsenicosis in India' to the Arsenic affected States including Uttar Pradesh for taking necessary action. These Guidelines are meant for sensitizing the Health Programme Managers and for training of Health functionaries such as Medical Officers, Paramedical staff etc. in the affected States and Districts. Treatment facilities for the community is provided at the existing PHCs, CHCs, District Hospitals and no separate facility for patients affected by Arsenic in water has been created.

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