

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2072
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/03/2018**

Safe Drinking Water in Arsenic-hit Areas

2072. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) whether several reports have expressed their concern over the rising crisis of drinking water in arsenic-hit areas in the country specially in Assam and urged the Government to take serious note for providing drinking water in such areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the States and areas which are affected by arsenic and fluoride; and
- (c) The details of the schemes and funds allocated by the Government to provide safe drinking water to the people of arsenic-hit areas?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI S.S.AHLUWALIA)**

(a) to (c): Yes Madam. Ministry is aware that there is crisis of safe drinking water in arsenic affected areas in some parts of the country. Rural drinking water supply is a state subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry 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 Government who plan, design, approve, execute and operate & maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. State-wise number of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations as reported by the states into Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 01st March,2018 is at **Annexure**.

To deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, Government of India has released Rs 800 crore in March 2016 for commissioning Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) so that safe water for drinking and cooking needs are addressed immediately. In addition, funds to the tune of Rs.100 Crore each are also provided for tackling arsenic and fluoride problems in West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for the last mile connectivity in commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had 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. As on date, Rs.2421.64 Crore has been released under NWQSM to provide safe drinking water in arsenic / fluoride affected habitations and 1872 habitations have been provided with potable water so far.

The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can also be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations.

**Annexure referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2072 due
for reply on 08/03/2018**

**State-wise number of arsenic and fluoride affected habitations as reported by
the states into Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the
Ministry as on 01st March, 2018**

S. No.	Name of the State	Nos. of Fluoride affected habitations	Nos. of Arsenic affected habitations
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	348	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
4	Assam	285	4,518
5	Bihar	898	871
6	Chhattisgarh	403	19
7	Goa	0	0
8	Gujarat	0	0
9	Haryana	118	0
10	Himachal Pradesh	0	0
11	Jammu & Kashmir	4	0
12	Jharkhand	552	102
13	Karnataka	580	4
14	Kerala	34	0
15	Madhya Pradesh	171	0
16	Maharashtra	79	0
17	Manipur	0	0
18	Meghalaya	0	0
19	Mizoram	0	0
20	Nagaland	0	0
21	Odisha	104	0
22	Puducherry	0	0
23	Punjab	301	701
24	Rajasthan	6,065	0
25	Sikkim	0	0
26	Tamil Nadu	0	0
27	Telangana	798	0
28	Tripura	0	0
29	Uttar Pradesh	179	748
30	Uttarakhand	0	0
31	West Bengal	1,336	10,162
Total		12,255	17,125