

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 323
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018**

Per capita availability of safe drinking water

†323. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the gross per capita availability of safe drinking water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, District and State-wise including Bihar;
- (c) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that a large number of rural and urban households across the States particularly Bihar are affected by Fluoride and Arsenic contamination of water; and
- (d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to ensure access to safe drinking water especially in rural areas?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)**

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India has assessed the gross per capita availability of drinking water of all states including Bihar. As on 16/07/2018, out of 17.26 lakh rural habitations in the country, 78% of them are having the basic minimum service level of 40 liters per day of safe drinking water as per the guidelines of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). In Bihar, out of 1.1 lakh rural habitations, 61% have safe drinking water at least 40 liters per capita per day.

(c) & (d) The Ministry assists the State Governments for improving the coverage of safe drinking water in respect of rural areas only. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India, has taken cognizance of the fact that a number of rural habitations across the States including Bihar are affected by Fluoride and Arsenic contamination of water and has launched the National Water Quality Sub-Mission for Arsenic and Fluoride (NWQSM) wherein a total of 27,544 habitations have been targeted to provide safe drinking water in a span of 4 years starting from the year 2017-18. As on date, funds to the tune of Rs. 2,881.3 Crore has been provided to the 16 Arsenic and Fluoride affected states for providing safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country including Bihar. Moreover, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, funds to the tune of Rs 800 crore has been provided by the Central Government to arsenic and fluoride affected for commissioning Community Water Purification Plants.
