

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 550
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH JULY, 2018**

DISEASES DUE TO ARSENIC POLLUTION

550. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

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

- (a) whether the diseases caused due to arsenic pollution are rapidly rising in the country particularly in backward and rural areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take any concrete steps with the assistance of foreign health officers to check such diseases if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the year-wise details of assistance provided by the Government to the States during each of the last three years;
- (d) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to allocate more funds in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a): Diseases such as Cholera, Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (Dysentery and Diarrhea), Enteric Fever (Typhoid) and Viral Hepatitis A & E are caused by consumption of contaminated drinking water. Arsenic and Fluorosis elements also contaminate ground water. It cannot be said that a particular disease has been caused due to arsenic pollution only and, therefore, no separate data is maintained in this regard.

(b): No.

(c) to (e): Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, the Ministry of Drinking and Sanitation 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

Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, 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 drinking water quality problems with priority to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations.

Funds to the tune of Rs.2825.6968 Crore was released up to 31st March 2018 to the States affected with arsenic and fluoride contamination under National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) which was launched on 22nd march, 2017 under NRDWP to provide safe drinking water to the rural habitations affected with arsenic/fluoride.

In addition to the above, to deal with arsenic and fluoride contamination, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, Government of India has released Rs.1000 crores in March 2016 to the affected States.