

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2752
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27/12/2018**

Disease Causing Contaminated Water

†2752 SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

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

- (a) whether the general public in Darbhanga region of Bihar are struggling with grave fatal diseases owing to heavy presence of arsenic in ground water;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any research in this regard;
- (c) whether any amount and guidelines have been released/issued to the State Government for addressing this problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : 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 scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for taking up piped water supply schemes in water quality affected areas on priority.

Upto 5% of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are available for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance purposes wherein quality of drinking water is assessed on a regular basis in water quality testing laboratories set up in each district.

(c) & (d) : Ground water is the mandate of the Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued National Water Quality Submission (NWQSM) guidelines to provide safe drinking water to arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in rural areas.

The details of funds released under NRDWP/NWQSM to Government of Bihar for providing safe drinking water in the State including Darbhanga District, is as follows:

Financial Year	Funds released under NWQSM (in Rs. Crore)	Amount Released under NRDWP including NWQSM (in Rs. Crore)
2016-17	20.97	373.81
2017-18	80.37	355.6
2018-19 (till 24.12.2018)	70.62	234.84
