

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 538  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2018**

**Arsenic Contamination of Ground Water**

†538 SHRI KIRTI AZAD:

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

- (a) whether people are struggling with the life threatening diseases because of high concentration of arsenic in ground water in Darbhanga, Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any research work in this regard;
- (c) whether any funds have been released or guidelines have been issued to the State Government to solve the problem of ground water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE 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 as priority.

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, RD & GR.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has issued National Water Quality Sub-Mission (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:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funds released under NWQSM (in Rs. Crore)</b>	<b>Amount Released under NRDWP including NWQSM (in Rs. Crore)</b>
2016-17	20.97	373.81
2017-18	80.37	355.6
2018-19 (till 09.12.2018)	70.62	234.84