

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4372
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH JULY, 2019**

CANCER CASES DUE TO ARSENIC IN GROUND WATER

4372. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of arsenic contamination of ground water in Northern regions of India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken to raise awareness about this issue;
- (c) whether the number of cancer cases reported from such areas have seen an increase during the last five years;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): As per information received from Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, the number of Arsenic affected rural habitations in Northern regions are as under:

S. No.	State	Arsenic Affected Habitations
1	Punjab	660
2	Uttar Pradesh	650

(b): Provision of safe drinking water and health services falls within the remit of the State/UT Governments. However, the Government of India has taken steps both for facilitating availability of safe drinking water and also for ensuring effective surveillance of outbreaks of water borne diseases and their prevention and management.

The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation have advised all States to commission surface water based piped water supply schemes in all habitations as a long term sustainable solution. However, since these projects have a long gestation period (say 3-5 years) and the rural people cannot be put to the risk of consuming contaminated water, all States have also been advised to install community water purification plants. This has been done with the objective of providing 8-10 litres of safe water per capita per day for drinking and cooking purposes only.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued guidelines for 'Detection, Prevention & Management of Arsenicosis in India' to the Arsenic affected States. State Governments are also advised to strengthen District/Community Health Centre (CHC) infrastructure for early diagnosis, management and treatment of Arsenic affected cases and for this purpose seek necessary support in the State Program Implementation Plans (PIPs) submitted under the National Health Mission (NHM).

(c) & (d): A slight increasing trend has been noticed in the Cancer cases in the States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The details of reported number of incidence of Cancer cases in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh during the last five years are as under:

Year	State	
	Punjab	Uttar Pradesh
2014	30,002	2,22,615
2015	31,214	2,33,659
2016	32,474	2,45,231
2017	33,781	2,57,353
2018	35,137	2,70,053

(e): The treatment of Cancer in many States and Central Government institutions is free for BPL patients and subsidized for others. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments to prevent and control Cancer and to provide affordable and accessible care. Some of the steps taken by Central Government are as follows:

- (i) The National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) is implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) for interventions upto the district level includes awareness generation for Cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate level institution for treatment. For Cancer, the focus is on three Cancers, namely, Breast Cancer, Cervical Cancer and Oral Cancer.
- (ii) To enhance the facilities for tertiary care of Cancer, the Central Government is implementing Tertiary Care Cancer Centre Scheme to support setting up of State Cancer Institutes (SCI) and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCC) in different parts of the country.
- (iii) Oncology in its various aspects has focus in newly established AIIMS and many upgraded institutions under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).

- (iv) National Cancer Institute (NCI) at Jhajjar (Haryana) has been set up.
- (v) Setting up of second campus of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata has been approved.
- (vi) The Government is providing financial assistance to patients living below poverty line for life threatening diseases under the schemes such as Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN), Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMCPF) and Health Minister's Discretionary Grant (HMDG).
- (vii) Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment (AMRIT) Deendayal outlets have been opened at 158 Institutions/Hospitals with an objective to make available Cancer and Cardiovascular Diseases drugs and implants at discounted prices to the patients. Jan Aushadhi stores are set up by Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide generic drugs at affordable prices.
- (viii) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) provides for benefit coverage of Rs. 5,00,000/- to over more than 10 crore beneficiary families, giving cashless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service in empanelled hospitals (both public and private) across India. More than 1350 medical packages have been finalized by an expert committee. The treatment of Cancer is also included under PMJAY.

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