

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1391
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2023**

DISEASES CAUSED BY ARSENIC CONTAMINATION

1391. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that there is a sharp increase in diseases caused by arsenic contamination in the country particularly in backward and rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take concrete steps with the help of the foreign health experts/organisations for alleviation of diseases spreading due to arsenic contamination;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the financial assistance provided by the Government to the States for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise;
- (e) whether the State Governments have sought additional allocation of funds from the Union Government in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (f):

Provision of safe drinking water and health services falls within the remit of the States/UTs Governments. However, the Government of India has taken several steps for alleviation of diseases spreading due to arsenic contamination as follows:

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, has been implemented by Ministry of Jal Shakti in partnership with States, to make provision of potable tap water

supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household by 2024. (**Source:** Ministry of Jal Shakti)

- Under Jal Jeevan Mission, States/ UTs have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes of bulk water transfer and is also advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) especially in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations to provide potable water to every household. (**Source:** Ministry of Jal Shakti)
- Under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), special attention is given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water. Further, under NAQUIM, CGWB constructs arsenic safe exploratory wells in arsenic affected parts of the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The arsenic safe deeper aquifer zones have been identified and wells have been constructed tapping the arsenic safe deeper aquifers using innovative cement sealing technique. So far, 513 exploratory wells tapping arsenic safe aquifers have been constructed under NAQUIM programme including 40 in Bihar, 188 in West Bengal and 285 in Uttar Pradesh. In addition, the innovative cement sealing technique of CGWB has been shared with the state agencies to utilize to construct arsenic free wells. (**Source:** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti)
- Under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has made a comprehensive programme on water pollution for controlling point sources by developing industry specific standards and general standards for discharge of effluents. (**Source:** Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)
- A Comprehensive Ground Water Conservation Plan is prepared by Ministry of Jal Shakti for optimum usage of ground water and measures to harvest water to improve ground water charging. Actions are proposed for strict action against illegal extraction of ground water. (**Source:** Ministry of Jal Shakti)

Also, based on the assessment of ground water quality, wherever concentration of Fluoride, Arsenic and other Heavy Metals were found exceeding Bureau of Indian

Drinking Water Standards, concerned States/ UTs were requested to direct concerned State Depts. to take actions such as:

- Sealing of hand pumps/ wells having contaminated ground water
- Display sign board indicating (Not Fit for Drinking Water purposes) in vernacular language.
- Arrangement of alternate drinking water supply in the affected areas.

Under National Health Mission (NHM) funds are released to States/UTs under flexible pools on a lump sum basis to provide greater flexibility to States/UTs to utilize the funds as per their felt need and priorities. The States/UTs wise release under Flexible Pool for Non – Communicable Disease (NCD) Programme under NHM during the period from the Financial Year 2019-20 to 2021-22 is annexed.

States/UTs wise Central Releases under Flexible Pool for Non-Communicable Diseases under NHM from the FY 2019-20 to 2021-22				
(Rs. in crore)				
S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.30	0.38	0.71
2	Andhra Pradesh	38.78	43.86	4.22
3	Arunachal Pradesh	12.42	0.00	3.32
4	Assam	30.37	0.00	20.97
5	Bihar	4.23	0.00	7.76
6	Chandigarh	0.32	0.59	0.19
7	Chhattisgarh	5.16	0.00	3.85
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.43	0.74	0.22
9	Daman & Diu	0.25		
10	Delhi	2.69	0.00	2.70
11	Goa	0.11	0.00	0.39
12	Gujarat	29.60	15.01	23.12
13	Haryana	10.46	0.00	6.24
14	Himachal Pradesh	1.76	0.00	9.22
15	Jammu & Kashmir	14.96	12.41	5.36
16	Jharkhand	31.27	0.00	8.08
17	Karnataka	43.40	49.79	28.45
18	Kerala	10.81	23.32	7.51
19	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.10	0.04
20	Madhya Pradesh	58.75	25.18	38.94
21	Maharashtra	53.55	26.56	26.20
22	Manipur	10.81	3.41	2.05
23	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	2.64
24	Mizoram	3.14	1.30	1.73
25	Nagaland	5.26	0.00	1.15
26	Odisha	45.90	0.00	4.85
27	Puducherry	1.27	0.50	0.57
28	Punjab	11.15	5.90	4.38
29	Rajasthan	30.67	0.00	25.50
30	Sikkim	0.47	0.00	0.29
31	Tamil Nadu	30.27	54.00	30.31
32	Tripura	1.07	0.00	1.88
33	Uttar Pradesh	138.67	51.08	52.27
34	Uttarakhand	9.51	0.00	1.96
35	West Bengal	18.34	17.62	26.10
36	Telangana	13.70	29.15	9.58
37	Ladakh	-	3.45	1.35