

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4080
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH MARCH, 2023**

CANCER DUE TO ARSENIC CONTAMINATION

**4080. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether the cancer patients are rising day by day in most parts of Assam and Bihar due to high content of arsenic found in drinking water in these States;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is taking any effective steps in this direction; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (c): According to the ICMR National Cancer Registry Programme, the estimated number of incidences of cancer cases in the last three years, 2020, 2021 and 2022 in the State of Assam and Bihar are as per the details given below:

Estimated Incidence of Cancer Cases in Assam and Bihar (2020-2022)			
State	2020	2021	2022
Assam	37880	38834	39787
Bihar	103711	106435	109274

Prolonged use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking causes several diseases, predominantly skin pigmentation, thickening, hard patches on the palms and soles of the feet (hyperkeratosis). These occur after a minimum exposure of approximately five years and may be a precursor to skin cancer. In addition, long-term exposure to arsenic may also cause cancers of the bladder and lungs. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified arsenic and arsenic compounds as carcinogenic to humans and has also stated that arsenic in drinking-water is carcinogenic to humans. High Arsenic in ground water is found in small pockets of many States like Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, UP and West Bengal.

The mainstay of combating ground water contamination is by provision of safe drinking water, which is done in all the states.
