

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 838
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2023
“PROBLEM OF ARSENIC RICE”

838. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH LODHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of the areas where high arsenic is found in rice;
- (b) Whether the Government has taken any steps to solve this problem;
- (c) Whether excessive arsenic in rice is included in the list of carcinogenic elements and if so the details thereof;
- (d) Whether the rice contains twenty times more arsenic as compared to other food grains and if so the details of States where arsenic level in rice has been found to be more than the prescribed limit & factors responsible for it; and
- (e) The level of arsenic found in rice in the said state?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a), (b), (d) and (e): No such details are available. However, to minimize the issue related to arsenic, following remedial measures have been recommended by ICAR as and where it may be reported:

- (i) Growing of relatively arsenic tolerant rice varieties Muktaashri (IET 21845), IET 1444, IET-4786, IET-9947 and IET-17430, *Gotrabhog*, *Nayanmoni*, and *Shatabdi*.
- (ii) Direct Seeded Rice using drum seeder and seed drill
- (iii) Conjunctive use of ground and surface water.

- (iv) Recharge of groundwater with harvested rainwater.
- (v) Increased use of farmyard manure (FYM) and other manures such as green manure crops.
- (vi) Application of appropriate amendments (zinc/iron salts as and wherever applicable).
- (vii) *Boro* rice requiring more groundwater should be replaced with other suitable and less water demanding crops.

(c): As per Indian Council of Medical Research, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified 'Arsenic and inorganic arsenic compounds' under Group 1: Carcinogenic to humans (1). However, there is no information available on excessive arsenic in rice included in the list of carcinogenic elements
