

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.453
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 2019

URANIUM CONTAMINATION IN IRRIGATION WATER

453. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government considers usage of uranium contaminated water for irrigation as harmful for agricultural productivity, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the report regarding high level of uranium contamination in groundwater of India, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the negative impact of using uranium contaminated groundwater for irrigation on agricultural productivity and quality of the crop in terms of transmission of uranium from water to the crops;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check transmission of uranium from water to the crops?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a): Uranium is a radioactive element, and its contamination beyond threshold levels in irrigation water may prove harmful to agricultural productivity and quality of produce.
- (b): As per the information by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, there is prevalence of Uranium concentration above 30 micro-gram per litre (WHO provisional guidelines) in some of the localized pockets of few States/UTs in the country. A report brought out by Duke University, USA in association with Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water departments states that Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir have localised occurrence of Uranium concentration.
- (c) to (e): As per information by Indian Agriculture Research Institute and Department of Atomic Energy, irrigation with high uranium containing groundwater may affect crop productivity and quality of the crops. However, no specific research studies have come to the knowledge on this aspect.
