

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3164
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2020**

Quality of Handpump Water in Bihar

†3164. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR:

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drinking water provided to the people in Darbhanga district of Bihar through hand pumps is considered unsafe and unhealthy due to presence of more amount of iron and arsenic in it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has any plan to provide ironless and arsenicless drinking water in Darbhanga and the other nearby districts and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) & (b) Block wise number of Arsenic and Iron affected habitations in Darbhanga district of Bihar as reported by the State in IMIS of the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitations as on 09.03.2020, is as follows:

S. No.	Block Name	Arsenic	Iron
1.	Alinagar	0	1
2.	Biraul	3	0
3.	Jale	1	0
4.	Keoti	1	0
5.	Kiratpur	2	0
Total		7	1

Out of 7 Arsenic affected habitations, the proposal for providing safe drinking water to 5 Arsenic affected habitations of Biraul & Kiratpur blocks have been approved under National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM).

(c) Rural water supply is a State subject and Government of India supplements the efforts of States/ UTs by providing financial and technical assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) which aims at providing potable water to every rural household with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) at service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) by 2024. While allocating the funds under JJM to States/ UTs, 10% weightage has been given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Arsenic and Iron. The funds provided to the States under JJM can be utilized for taking up schemes in water quality-affected areas on priority.

Further, in March 2017, National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) was launched as a part of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which has now been subsumed under Jal Jeevan Mission, to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 Arsenic/ Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country. An amount of Rs. 171.96 Crore have been released to Government of Bihar under NWQSM.
