

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5305
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05TH APRIL, 2022
“ARSENIC-CONTAMINATED RICE CULTIVATION”

5305. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
SHRI R.P. CHAUDHARY:
SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of regions where rice is grown using highly arsenic-contaminated water, district-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has taken/proposed any steps to resolve the problem of arsenic-contaminated rice in States where arsenic level is more than the limit set by the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS); and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) to (c): No such details where rice is grown using highly arsenic-contaminated water are available, however, the following remedial measures have been recommended by ICAR to minimize the problem of arsenic 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.
