

programme on limited scale for control of canine rabies was sanctioned in 16 States and one Union Territory. Each State/Union Territory was allocated one to two canine rabies control units. An amount of Rs. 117 lakhs, Rs. 192 lakhs and Rs. 334 lakhs were earmarked as central assistance for this programme during the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Plan.

During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 70 lakhs was provided under this programme. This programme is being continued during the 9th Plan. At present a total of about 60 canine rabies control units are functioning in the country.

Arsenic contamination of water

2026. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:

DR. MOHAN BABU:

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

(a) whether WHO have sounded alarm bell to India about Arsenic contamination;

(b) if so, the districts where groundwater is not meeting the safe limit of the chemical set by WHO; and

(c) what action Government have taken to contain this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) WHO have drawn attention to the problems arising out of presence of Arsenic in Drinking Water Supplies in India and Bangladesh;

(b) The names of the Districts where Ground Water Quality is not meeting the Safe Limit of the Chemicals set by the WHO are (i) Murshidabad; (ii) Malda; (iii) Nadia; (iv) North 24 Parganas; (v) South 24 Parganas; (vi) Howrah; (vii) Hugli; and (viii) Burdhan.

(c) The State Government in collaboration with and Financial support from Government of India has sanctioned a First Phase Action Plan to a cost of Rs. 858.33 lakhs whereunder replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources and big dia tubewells have already been completed, and four Water Supply Schemes have been fully commissioned. For Malda District, a surface water based piped Water Supply Scheme has been sanctioned at an estimated

cost of Rs. 8848 lakhs. Other works undertaken include;

- (i) Installation of Arsenic removal plants,
- (ii) Construction of sanitary protected ring wells,
- (iii) Trial boring-cum-handpump fitted production wells,
- (i v) Replacement of Arsenic affected spot sources. Approval for a Surface Water based Piped Water Supply Scheme for Arsenic affected areas of South 24 Parganas district at an estimated cost of Rs. 232.84 crore has been accorded.

The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health in Calcutta, of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken Epidemiological Study in Arsenic affected areas under the sponsorship of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This Institute carried out Ministry of Rural Development sponsored R&D Study for development of field model for Arsenic removal. The Institute also carried out Trainers Workshop, and field training for water quality analysis in respect of Arsenic contamination during 1997.

Eradication of Polio

2027. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:

DR. MOHAN BABU:

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

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for eradication of Polio in the country;

(b) if so, what arrangement have been made to achieve national target for eradication of polio in rural and urban areas of the country; and

(c) the details of the effective action being taken by Government in this regard?"

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU):

(a) The Government is aiming at eradication of Polio by the year 2000 A.D.

(b) and (c) 1. High Coverage in the routine immunization programme;