

#### **Arsenic contamination of water in Assam**

2951. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that arsenic is found in water in a number of districts of Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to control it;
- (d) the problems being faced by the people as a result of arsenic contamination;
- (e) whether the State Government has sought any help from the Centre; and
- (f) if so, the assistance provided by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Assam on the Online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), as on 1/4/2011, there were 2,089 rural habitations in 19 districts wherein some or all drinking water sources are affected with arsenic in excess of prescribed limits, remaining to be covered with supply of safe drinking water. Statement showing district-wise details is given in Statement. (See below).

(c) As per reports available, Government of Assam has provided safe drinking water in 661 arsenic affected habitations through piped water supply from alternate safe surface/groundwater sources and through dugwells during 2009-11. It has targeted to cover 1758 (as per on-line IMIS) arsenic affected habitations in 2011-12. The State Government has been urged to give highest priority to coverage of such habitations in its Annual Action Plan.

(d) Prolonged consumption of drinking water with arsenic levels in excess of prescribed limits may lead to diseases like keratosis and melanosis.

(e) and (f) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the State Governments in provision of safe drinking water to the rural population of the country through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water

Programme (NRDWP). In 2010-11, Rs. 487.47 crore were released to Assam under NRDWP. The allocation made for Assam under NRDWP for the year 2011-12 is Rs 428.86 crore. As per NRDWP Guidelines upto 65% of released funds could be utilized for tackling water quality problems.

***Statement***

*Remaining arsenic affected rural habitations in Assam State as on 1/4/2011*

Sl. No.	District Name	No. of remaining arsenic affected habitations
1	2	3
1	Baksha	36
2	Barpeta	121
3	Bongaigaon	47
4	Cachar	29
5	Chirang	0
6	Darrang	99
7	Dhemaji	62
8	Dhubri	82
9	Dibrugarh	0
10	Goalpara	12
11	Golaghat	389
12	Hailakandi	30
13	Jorhat	486
14	Kamrup	0
15	Karbi Anglong	0
16	Karimganj	59
17	Kokrajhar	1

1	2	3
18	Lakhimpur	63
19	Marigaon	31
20	Nagaon	1
21	Nalbari	341
22	Sibsagar	123
23	Sonitpur	77
24	Tinsukia	0
25	Udalguri	0
TOTAL		2,089

**Provisioning of contaminated drinking water**

2952. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 1,10,000 habitations affected with chemical contamination were provided safe drinking water during the period from 2005 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the funds spent during this period?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the States as on 31.7.2011 in the on-line Integrated Management Information System of the Ministry, from 2005-06 to 2011-12 1,12,300 quality-affected habitations have been provided with safe drinking water. The year-wise and State-wise details of coverage of quality-affected habitations (including Andhra Pradesh) are given in the Statement-I (See below).

(c) A statement giving the State-wise details of expenditure of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme including expenditure for coverage of quality-affected habitations is given in Statement-II (See below).