

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Arsenic affected habitations @	Population residing in arsenic affected habitations @
1.	Uttar Pradesh	9	7073
2.	Bihar	1004	710566
3.	Jharkhand	1	233
4.	West Bengal	2119	3526452
5.	Assam	1157	362402

@ Habitations in which one or more drinking water sources are contaminated with excess arsenic and not covered with supply of safe drinking water.

Besides as per IMIS report, Karnataka has 19 habitations affected with Arsenic in which the population affected is 26612.

(c) Rural water supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 10,500 crore has been made for the NRDWP in 2012-13. Up to 67 per cent of the NRDWP funds allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas of the country. In addition, 5% of the NRDWP allocation is provided to States with habitations affected by chemical contamination, including arsenic affected habitations and to States with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome cases. Government of India also provides 3 per cent NRDWP funds on 100 per cent central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance, which *inter-alia* include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up-gradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, hiring of trained manpower for the laboratories and providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats. Further up to 10 per cent of NRDWP funds allocated to States could be utilized for sustainability of drinking water sources through artificial recharge of ground water and other methods, which *inter-alia* may also dilute the level of contamination in aquifers.

Piped drinking water supply

1756. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for providing piped drinking water supply in only 5.5 lakh habitations so far out of 16.66 lakh habitations in the country;

(b) the manner in which the Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the States to increase the number of habitations with piped drinking water supply, with a particular reference to Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any special scheme/programme has been envisaged in the Twelfth Five Year Plan for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) The main reasons for low coverage of habitations with piped water supply is higher cost of piped water schemes, longer gestation period in the execution of piped water supply schemes, non-availability or irregular supply of electricity for pumping of water, large number of small and remote rural habitations etc.

(b) The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides financial and technical assistance to the States under the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water including through piped drinking water supply schemes to rural households.

The State Governments are vested with powers to select piped water supply schemes and plan, execute and implement them under the NRDWP to cover more habitations with piped water supply. Upto 67% of the funds allocated to States under NRDWP can be utilized for taking up schemes including for providing piped water supply.

(c) to (e) Under the NRDWP, during the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17), the focus shall be on :

- (i) increasing the service levels in rural areas from 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd) to 55 lpcd,
- (ii) providing drinking water through piped water supply systems,
- (iii) Priority has also been given to Operation and Maintenance of water supply systems by allocating 15% of NRDWP funds for the same.