

Quality of drinking water in tribal areas

†678. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the supply of contaminated drinking water in tribal areas of the country due to excess quantity of fluoride and arsenic in ground water in those areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to identify the affected ground water areas;

(d) whether Government is looking for new alternatives for pure water supply in those affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by States on the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry, the State-wise number of Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations affected with excess fluoride and excess arsenic in rural drinking water sources which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water supply, as on 1.4.2012 is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Drinking water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments with technical and financial assistance for provision of safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Under NRDWP, States can utilize upto 67% of funds released to them for provision of safe and adequate drinking water in drinking water quality affected habitations, including in fluoride and arsenic affected habitations. 3% of funds allocated to the States are earmarked for water quality monitoring and surveillance activities on a 100% Central share basis which, *inter-alia*, includes testing of drinking water sources at the Panchayat level by using simple field test kits, setting up of new district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories and upgrading of existing water quality testing laboratories. This will help to identify groundwater and surface water sources affected by chemical and bacteriological contamination. In addition, 5% of the NRDWP funds are earmarked

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for Water Quality and allocated to those States with habitations affected by excess chemical contamination and those States with high priority districts affected by Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome for provision of safe drinking water supply to water quality affected habitations.

The Ministry has earmarked 10% of the total funds under NRDWP at national level for the Tribal Sub Plan to be utilized for provision of safe and adequate drinking water supply in Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations. Wherever groundwater is affected with excess arsenic or fluoride, the States have been advised to provide safe drinking water from surface water bodies through piped water supply schemes as a sustainable solution.

Statement

State-wise number of Scheduled Tribe concentrated habitations affected with excess arsenic and fluoride as on 1.4.2012

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Fluoride affected habitations	No. of Arsenic affected habitations
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39	0
2.	Bihar	319	10
3.	Chhattisgarh	224	0
4.	Gujarat	17	0
5.	Jharkhand	15	0
6.	Karnataka	273	4
7.	Kerala	5	0
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1817	0
9.	Maharashtra	43	0
10.	Orissa	166	0
11.	Rajasthan	720	2
12.	West Bengal	147	44
13.	Assam	5	92
	TOTAL	3790	152