

Under PMKSY-AIBP, Ninety Nine (99) ongoing irrigation projects along with their Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) works have been identified in consultation with the States for completion in phases up to December, 2019. For completion of these projects in a mission mode funding mechanism through NABARD has been approved by the Government for both Central and State share.

(c) Benefits envisaged during the period 2015-16 to 2019-20 under various components of PMKSY are given below:—

Components		Utilization/coverage
Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)		76.03 Lakh Ha.*
HKKP	RRR, SMI, GW	6.0 Lakh Ha.
	CADWM	15.0 Lakh Ha. *
Per Drop More Crop		10.0 Million Ha.
Watershed Development		11.5 Lakh Ha

\* During 2016-17, Ninety Nine (99) Major/Medium Irrigation Projects having irrigation potential of 76.03 Lakh ha. have been identified for completion in phases by Dec., 2019 including their command area development work. Thus CADWM targets have been merged with AIBP.

#### **Arsenic contamination in Ganga-Brahmaputra plains**

2868. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared an action plan to meet the challenges posed by Arsenic contamination in groundwater in Ganga-Brahmaputra fluvial plains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government proposes to deal with this gigantic task and the precautionary measures planned to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN):

(a) to (c) Central Ground Water Board in the ensuing National Aquifer Mapping Programme has constructed several exploratory and observation wells in the country tapping the arsenic safe deeper aquifer zones delineated through exploration aided detailed aquifer mapping. Successful wells have been handed over to the State Governments for their purposeful utilization.

Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that the States are assisted technically and financially in providing safe drinking water through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). Upto 67% of funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for coverage and tackling water quality problems with priority to Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations. In addition, the States also received certain funds under the 5% Water Quality earmarked funds.

The State Governments have been directed to ensure availability of safe drinking water through Piped Water Supply as a long term measures. Since tackling this problem is a long term measure, NITI Aayog, as a stop gap arrangement, is supporting the State Governments for installation of Community Water Purification Plants for providing safe drinking water in the rural habitations of the Country, where water is contaminated with Arsenic and Fluoride. To this end, over and above the regular allocation of funds under NRDWP, on the recommendations of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance has released ₹ 800.00 crore during the financial year 2015-16 as a one-time 100% Central assistance to the States affected with water quality from Arsenic and Fluoride in the country. In addition, based on the recommendations of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance has also released ₹ 100.00 crore to each of the State of Rajasthan and West Bengal during the financial year 2015-16 to ensure supply of safe drinking water through surface water based piped water supply schemes in quality affected habitations as last mile connectivity.

Since the problem of contamination of water by Arsenic and Fluoride has been serious in the rural habitations, Central Government has taken cognizance of this serious problem and decided to take short-term and long term measures with a ring fenced funding to tackle this problem in the remaining habitations of the country. Over and above the normal release of funds to the States, during 2016-17, under NRDWP, the Centre share amounting to ₹ 746.23 crore has also been released to the States affected with Arsenic and Fluoride under Water Quality Sub-Mission in the ratio of 90:10 (Centre:State) for Northern-Eastern States and 50:50. (Centre: State) for other States focusing on mitigation of contamination of Fluoride and Arsenic in drinking water.

#### **Flood prevention on Ganga and Brahmaputra basin**

2869. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has estimated the loss/damage caused due to floods in our country since 2014, if so, the details thereof;