

Treatment plants for removal of arsenic contamination

958. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to provide special grants to the State Governments to deal with the issue of arsenic contamination in ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the plants to set up for removal of arsenic are rather new and expensive; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (d) Rural drinking water supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDW&S) supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, design, approve, execute, operate & maintain schemes for providing clean drinking water. Upto 67% fund allocated to the States can be utilized for coverage & tackling water quality problems.

MoDW&S has asked all States to focus on providing piped water supply schemes from safe and perennial surface water source in water quality affected habitations. As immediate measures, States have been provided an amount of ₹ 800 Crores in March 2016 as 100% grant by Government of India on the recommendation of NITI Aayog to provide 8-10 litres per capita per day of safe drinking water in arsenic and fluoride affected habitations for drinking and cooking purposes, as short term measures through Community Water Purification Plants. In addition, funds to the tune of ₹100 Crore each are also provided for tackling Arsenic and Fluoride problems in West Bengal and Rajasthan respectively for last mile connectivity in commissioning surface water based piped water supply schemes.

In addition, MODW&S has launched a National Water Quality Sub-Mission on 22nd March 2017 to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 Arsenic / Fluoride affected habitations in the Country in a span of 4 years, subject to availability of funds.

During February-March 2017, under Sub-Mission programme, funds to the tune of ₹ 814.13 crore have been released to 15 States for completing 588 on-going piped water supply schemes, which include 272 schemes covering 1874 arsenic affected habitations. During the current financial year 2017-18 under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), ₹ 1000 Crore has been earmarked for National Water Quality Sub-Mission on arsenic & fluoride. In July, 2017 ₹ 171.9 Crore has been released to Telangana State as part of 1st installment to cover 966 fluoride affected habitations through 27 new piped water supply schemes.

Cleaning of Ganga water at Haridwar

959. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ganga water at Haridwar has been found to be unfit even for taking bath as per reports of the Central Pollution Control Board and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, what are the specific reasons for increasing pollution therefor despite creation of a separate Ministry;

(c) whether Government had taken any step to clean Ganga water at Haridwar, if so, the details thereof and to what extent Government have been able to clean it; and

(d) what is Government's policy for cleaning Ganga water at Haridwar and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAN GOEL): (a) and (b) Water in Ganga river at Haridwar, by and large, meets the bathing water quality norms. However, some parameters of the bathing water quality norms are not met at certain times downstream of Haridwar.

(c) and (d) Conservation & cleaning of river Ganga is a continuous & collective effort of Central Government, State Governments, Local bodies and general public.

Under Namami Gange Programme a holistic approach has been adopted to clean the river Ganga. The various types of pollution abatement schemes taken up to clean Ganga may be categorized into core and non-core schemes. Core schemes include