

NRDWP for ensuring quality of ground water

2747. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to ensure that rural habitations have access to safe drinking water;

(b) whether Government is aware of the high Arsenic contamination found in ground water in villages across several States; and

(c) if so, details of the fund allocation for water quality surveillance and monitoring?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking water supply is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this Ministry supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme; National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It is the State Governments who plan, execute and maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. The funds provided to the States under NRDWP can be utilized for providing safe drinking water to rural population. As reported by the States in Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 01.01.2019, there are 15,795 habitations affected by arsenic.

States can utilize up to 5% of funds released to them under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS), which, *inter alia*, includes testing of drinking water sources, upgrading of existing water quality testing laboratories and setting up of new State / district / sub-district / mobile water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc.

Minerals contamination of drinking water in rural areas

2748. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 4.08 crore of rural population are at risk due to metallic contamination of drinking water viz. Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate, Heavy metals etc. and salinity;