

ORIGINAL

INVESTIGATION & ASSESSMENT REPORT

ARSENIC IN DRINKING WATER SOURCES

&

RELATED PROBLEMS

OF

BALLIA DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

(8.6.11 to 11.6.2011)

By

Mr. Radha Charan Dixit, NLM

(Former Scientist & Head, NEERI Delhi Zonal Laboratory, Delhi)

No. Q – 11018/37/2010 – NLM
Government of India, Ministry of Rural Development,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – 110001

June 2011

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No. Q-11018/37/2010-NLM
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development

Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi – 110114
Dated the 27th April, 2011

Shri Radha Charan Dixit,
246, Aravali Apartments,
Alakananda,
New Delhi 110019.
Tel. 09818191556

Subject: Complaint of Shri Saurabh Singh, GB-1, Chandrashekhar Nagar, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh regarding water quality issue in Ballia.

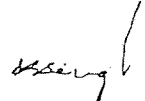
Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of complaint dated 17-02-2011 received from Shri Saurabh Singh, GB-1, Chandrashekhar Nagar, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh on the captioned subject (Annexure-I).

2. You are requested to visit **Ballia** district of **Uttar Pradesh** State immediately to ascertain the facts with reference to the complaint. The terms of reference for the enquiry is enclosed (Annexure-II).
3. You are required to contact the complainant. A written feedback may be obtained from the complainants and incorporated in the final report.
4. A detailed report alongwith CD (both in duplicate) may be submitted to this Ministry by 27th May, 2011 positively. A copy each of guidelines along with format for investigation is enclosed (Annexure-III & Annexure-IV).
5. Your visit should not exceed four days excluding journey period.

Yours faithfully,

Encl. : As above


(D.K. Singh)
Under Secretary (Mon.)
Telephone No. 011-23386378

Fwd: Arsenic issue/Ballia
To: jstm <jstm@nic.in>

Date: 18-02-11 10:38
From: "Secy, DDWS" <secydds@nb.nic.in>

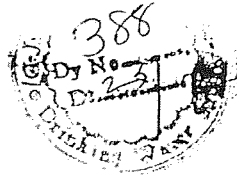
Secy

(20)

Arsenic issue/Ballia.eml (9kB)

The situation as described is certainly disturbing. We should follow up with GOUP and Jal Nigam. Should we commission an independent study?
Arup Misra.

To
Mr. Manoj Kumar Singh, I A S
Principal Secretary
Rural Development
U.P. Govt



*Discussed with Secy. DWS.
A NLM can be sent to
enquire and report.
Pl also write for reports to
GOUP & Jal Nigam.*

*JMK
23/2*

*Dir (SM)
Put up in file for
NLM - urgent.*

23/2

*ies (w)
50 (w-II)*

Sub: 28 Jan meeting in Lko to review W Q issue in Ballia

As discussed during Jan 28 meeting would like to brief you regarding the Arsenic issue in Ballia.

Here in Ballia, situation has worsened specially after the last summers. As in absence of health check ups and other relevant facility more and more people are succumbing to arsenic induced diseases. In the meanwhile Jal Nigam is constructing around 25 overhead tanks. However construction of the tanks started 5 years back are not yet completed.

Last week during our field visit villagers from Dalan Chhapra, Ramgarh, Bahuara, Sonbarsa and Rajpur where overhead tanks have been constructed reported that they are not getting any real benefit from these tank as pipe used in supplying water is always leaking. Also there was very poor or virtually no coverage at places as reported by villagers. At Sonbarsa we discovered that though tank was there but it has not started supplying water at all (No coverage). Almost everywhere we had to face similar situation.

It must be noted that an independent monitoring done on the instance of RGNDWM by Lucknow based institution has criticised mitigation works done by Jal Nigam in Ballia. This report was shared by Hon'ble Sudhanshu Kansal during a meeting to review Ballia issue in Delhi in 2009 where U P officials were also present.

Talk of community participation in ongoing projects is only limited to discussions. We are ready to help Jal Nigam and facilitate mitigation efforts by involving community. But Jal Nigam never thinks of that. In stead they pursue their own agenda. This has caused unnecessary delays resulting in huge cost over run of mitigation works.

I have learned from villagers that 2 years back UNICEF had installed 250 feet deep wells, but actually these wells are in the range of 200 feet and that too without 'sealing'. we demand an inquiry into all arsenic mitigation work done here.

Also district lab is lying dysfunctional.

All this is worsened by lack of coordination among all stakeholders.

Or, we pray you to look into matter and do the needful to save thousand of persons suffering due to high intake of Arsenic.

We are looking to to hear from you, for iny feedback/clarification

Kindly let us know.

Will appreciate if minutes' of Jan 28th meeting could be send to our us.

Warm Regards & Thanks

Saurabh Singh (On behalf of affected persons)

GB-1 Chandrashekhar Nagar
Ballia-277001
09454761745

saurabhs@journalist.com

www.innervoicefoundation.blogspot.com
Arsenic issue/Ballia.eml

Subject: Arsenic issue/Ballia
From: saurabh singh <innervoicefoundation@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, 17 Feb 2011 18:09:10 +0530
To: mks2973@yahoo.com, secydws@nic.in

To,

Mr Manoj Kumar Singh, I A S

Principal Secretary

Rural Development

U.P Govt

Terms of Reference for the National Level Monitor to assess status of arsenic affected habitations in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh and provision of arsenic-free drinking water

1. As reported, out of 229 water-quality affected habitations, 103 habitations have been reported as covered (List placed below). Whether these habitations/schemes are actually providing arsenic-free water? Whether they are fully functional?
Please see page 69
2. Whether the drinking water now supplied in the 103 habitations has been tested for arsenic content? A sample of such schemes and covered habitations be visited to verify position on ground. *Please see page 69*
3. There are 231 water quality affected habitations of which 229 are arsenic affected. Whether 100% public drinking water sources in the district have been tested for detecting arsenic? *Please see page 72*
4. Status of the existing district water testing laboratory in Ballia district - instrumentation, manpower, number of samples tested year month and year on an average, maintenance and up-keep of the laboratory. *Please see page 25, 26*
For suggestions please see pages 34, 35
5. What is the status of 9 ongoing schemes, capital cost of each scheme, how many total and arsenic-affected habitations are expected to be covered under each scheme and when these schemes are likely to be completed? *Please see page 70*
6. What is the status of 3 ongoing schemes taken up during 2010-11? How many arsenic-affected habitations are likely to be covered and by what date? *Please see page 71*
7. What is the plan of action by UP Jal Nigam to cover remaining 106 uncovered arsenic-affected habitations? *Please see page 69*

Guidelines for NLMs for conducting Preliminary Enquiry

The NLM will be provided a copy of the complaint (Annexure-I), Guidelines for Preliminary Enquiry (Annexure-II) and Preliminary Enquiry case reporting format (Annexure-III) by the Ministry for conducting enquiry.

2. In Enquiry cases, the NLM should contact the complainant and take necessary inputs from the complainant in writing or orally. If the complainant can provide any additional documents related to the case, same should be collected from him for reference. The NLM should ensure that during the Enquiry either the complainant himself or his representative is present so that he is satisfied with the way the enquiry is conducted and can also assist the NLM in the same. However, The NLM should deal with the case in an unbiased and fair manner.
3. Based on the complaint, the NLM should prepare a Questionnaire or check points beforehand which should include all the aspects of the case and base his enquiry around it so that vital aspects of the case are not missed while conducting the enquiry.
4. The NLM will verify the facts of the complaint from records of the officials, discussion with them and also discussion with public concerned with it in villages/Gram Sabhas/PRIs.
5. The NLM should ensure that equal opportunity is given to both the parties involved in the case.
6. The report submitted by the NLM should be detailed covering all the issues raised in the complaint and format suggested by this Ministry. The conclusion of Enquiry Report should be specific and not vague and ambiguous duly substantiated by evidence.

FORMAT FOR INVESTIGATION IN ENQUIRY CASES

Investigation and Assessment Report

Nature and scope of Investigation

1. Cause of action
2. Parties
3. Pleadings
4. Examination of evidences
5. Inspections
6. Hearing of parties and witnesses
7. Findings – Allegations are true, false, partly true, or no clue, or baseless and motivated
8. Conclusion as to guilt of the parties
9. Overall assessment of performance of the district, block, and gram panchayat
10. recommendations for Action to be taken by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

-
1. **Cause of Action:** Description of antecedent facts and circumstances leading to the case for determination
 2. **Parties:** Give description of the
 - Complainant(s)
 - Defendants – persons against whom the complaint is made.
 3. **Pleadings:**
 - 1) Complaint(s): Allegations made must be specific and verifiable, not vague. They must contain specific details of wrongs committed.
 - 2) Defence: Rebuttal of allegations should be made by the persons against whom allegations have been made.
 4. **Examination of Evidences:**
 - 1) Both pleadings and complainants and the defendants should be supported by evidences : oral(of witnesses) or documentary
 - 2) The evidence adduced by the parties should be examined by NLMs by proper verification of authenticity of documents and witnesses.
 - 3) Statement of witnesses should be reduced in writing, read out to them and signed by witnesses. Documents should be verified with the help of the author of the documents or others acquainted with the documents and their authors.
 - 4) Failure to produce evidences by either party should be clearly recorded along with reasons for withholding the evidences
 5. **Inspections:** Spot inspections of worksites, offices, or any other place may be made and a memorandum of inspection is made noting the object and findings of the inspection.

LATEST FEED BACK FROM THE COMPLAINTS
MAY BE READ ALONG WITH PAGE NO 3 & 4

In continuation of the earlier submission, kindly find herewith further information regarding arsenic presence in drinking water and reasons behind failure of schemes related to this problem:-

1) Piped water schemes in Arsenic affected villages, done by UP Jal Nigam is dysfunctional. No where out of more than 50 such piped water schemes / over head tanks villagers are getting water thoroughly.

Infect these schemes run into serious controversy. Reports from local newspapers – Dainik Jagaran & Hindustan etc. has been also highlighted that there is contractor-engineers nexus. We pray for free, fair and independent enquiry into every piped water supply scheme in Balia.

2) ARUs : This also fail to cater people. Barring handful ARUs all are dysfunctional. There is no maintenance even after paying huge sum for that. Community again is not taken into confidence and enough IEC has not been done in villages.

3) All community participation talk is limited to papers. Infect, community is always overlooked and not shared any information. So, there is general lack of enthusiasm / participation in all govt. run mitigation schemes.

4) Distt. Laboratory is dysfunctional – white elephant.

5) Lack of information / Ambiguity of data.

6) Complete mismanagement at distt. Level office regarding mitigation work. There is hardly any consultation or preparation plan before these schemes are started. Just decided on factors that could not be written or mentioned (corruption)

- 7) Lack of coordination among the different govt. agencies working in state / distt.
- 8) No medical health facilities.
- 9) UP Jal Nigam officers very hostile to us / our work.
- 10) Get little assistance from central govt. but they have very little role to play. Their direct participation should increase.
- 11) Academics from IITS, AIIMS, NGO's and local community should come together and prepare an action plan and execute it under professionally qualified and proved experts. O & M should be also by local community, they should be trained for operation & maintenance.
- 12) Creation of political will & professional competence which is lacking so far in all mitigation work.
- 13) Local, decentralized, small community driven projects should encouraged and not multy million dollars / white elephants – as done currently.
- 14) Villagers / community should part of planning process – which should begun at least one year ahead of execution phase.
- 15) Transparency at every level is needed. All datas / figures should be made online. Panchyat and community both given complete data.
- 16) Community and experts should come and not the contractors and engineers only.
- 17) Higher agencies / organization that have good work in sector like – Jadavpur University, NIH, IITs, WASMO.

INVESTIGATION & ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. Cause of action:

In Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh the presence of arsenic in drinking water supply and due to that the suffering of people to different diseases has been reported. In this regard Shri Saurabh Singh, G.B-1, Chandrashekar Nagar Ballia on behalf of affected persons has been drawing the attention of concerned authorities at local as well as Central Govt. levels from time to time.

Further, in February 2011, on receipt of a complaint from Shri Saurabh Singh regarding the aforementioned issue, the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi directed Shri R.C. Dixit, NLM, to visit Ballia district to ascertain the facts with reference to the said complaint.

2. PARTIES:

I. COMPLAINANT:

Here, Shri Saurabh Singh, GB-1 Chandrashekhar Nagar, Ballia, who on behalf of the affected persons due to arsenic presence in drinking water of district Ballia has drawn the attention of concerned authorities, is the complainant.

II. DEFENDANTS:

Jal Nigam authorities responsible for supplying of drinking water to the Public, are the defendants.

3. PLEADINGS

I. Complaints:

Allegations: (as per page no. 3,4, 11 & 12).

- (a) Presence of Arsenic in Ballia district water supply.
- (b) There is no health check ups and other relevant facilities.
- (c) People are succumbing to Arsenic induced diseases.
- (d) Piped water schemes in Arsenic affected villages are dysfunctional. Nowhere out of more than 50 such piped water schemes/over head tanks villagers are getting water thoroughly. (for details of piped water scheme please see. P. 64 to 67)
- (e) Villagers at following places:-
 - (1) DALAN CHHAPRA
 - (2) RAM GARH
 - (3) BAHUARA
 - (4) SONBARSA
 - (5) RAJPUR

Where over head tanks have been constructed; reported as below:-

- i. The villages of respective not getting any real benefits from these tanks.

- ii. Pipes used in water supply are leaking heavily.
 - iii. There is a very or virtually no coverage of pipes at most places
 - iv. From SONBARSA tank no water supply has started at all. There is no proper coverage.
 - v. Every where situation is similar
- (f) There is only limited community participation. Villagers are not taken into confidence. They are never briefed about schemes, programming & quality. Community participation is limited to papers only.
- (g) Villagers/Complainant demand an enquiry into the 250 feet deep wells installed by UNICEF two years back with sealings these tubewells are actually about 200 feet deep (and not 250 feet deep) and are without sealings.
- (h) Jal Nigam district water testing laboratory at Ballia is lying dysfunctional. Its functioning needs enquiry?
- (i) The schemes are running into serious controversy. Reports from local newspapers are highlighting the contractors engineers nexus. Enquiry prayed.
- (j) Arsenic Removal Units also failure. No maintenance.

II. DEFENCE:

- i) Presence of Arsenic in varying concentration in Ballia district is confirmed.
- ii) There is no earlier/back ground periodical monitoring data of concentrations of Arsenic of respective water sources available in whole district.
 - 1) Health checkup is under health department. For health checkup no data available.
 - 2) People in some areas are having Arsenic induced diseases.
 - 3) These over Head Tanks are not 25. There are 05 drinking water supply schemes these are functional. (Statement given, p-63)
 - 4) These schemes are functional and all have been completed in March 2010 to (Statement enclosed page 63)
 - 5) Regarding Community participationsilent.
 - 6) Deep tube wells in reference are 250 feet deep and are with sealings fitted.
 - 7) The laboratory is its functional condition.

4. EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCES

- i) The complainant has supported the allegations by visiting the sites / villages with the NLM and concerned Jal Nigam officials on 09th and 10th June, 2011 and by discussions with the residents / people of respective villages & people of neighbourhood and who were present there.

- ii) Complainant has provided some minutes of the meetings with the concerned authorities in which he was called to participate. The minutes indicate the seriousness of arsenic problem and progress of work at that time. Completion of Ballia schemes should have been completed by June 2008. The scheme have not been completed. It is a matter of deep concern (para 6 & 5 page 75)
- iii) Complainant has also provided some newspaper's cuttings / clips and editorials written on the arsenic problem in Ballia district. (PLEASE GO THROUGH THE PAGES - 91 To 111)
- iv) The Jal Nigam officials (defendants) have provided the official documents regarding the status of work, projects completed, district laboratory working, arsenic-kit, status of mark II hand pumps deep tube-wells, Arsenic Removal Units (ARU), Arsenic filed test kits provided to villages by Jal Nigam H.O. Lucknow directly, covered / uncovered affected habitations.

5. INSPECTIONS:

- i) NLM has visited different water sources / villages (deep-well, mark II hand pump, Arsenic Removal Units) selected randomly as a sample to verify position on ground.
- ii) Date of visits: 09th and 10th June 2011 whole days.
- iii) Distance covered: 175 Km. and 110 Km. respectively.
- iv) Jal Nigam Officials Shri Islam Uddin Asstt. Engineer and Shri Shatendra Kumar, Junior Engineer both accompanied NLM

along with Shri Saurabh Singh complainant on 09.06.2011 and only J.E. with complainant and NLM on 10.06.2011.

- v) At different sites / villages the residents and people present there were discussed the situation / condition of water supply & related matters to find the facts.
- vi) People in general gave the true picture of the status and conditions of water supply.
- vii) At a few places (mentioned in the respective visits to villages / sites the residents / people present there on sites were warned in our presence not to talk anything except that person (himself). (PAGE 42, 46)
- viii) People as mentioned above were not willing / prepared to give in writing or to put their signature / thumb impression or sometimes their identifications also.
- ix) The details of every villages/site visited has been given separately. (page 36-43).
- x) Existing district water testing laboratory in Ballia was inspected to examine the status of manpower, instruments, testing facilities, general conditions, methods of analysis and standard methodology followed for testing, books available, AMC of instruments, parameters covered. Special attention to the methodology followed for testing Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity.

6. HEARING OF PARTIES & WITNESSES:

i) The date of investigation was intimated in advance to the parties:-

(1) Shri Saurabh Singh, Complainant was informed by speed post and

(2) The Jal Nigam authorities (Defendants) were informed by speed post and also by fax.

Both the aforementioned parties were given adequate opportunity for making their submissions.

Shri Saurabh Singh in support of his allegations has visited the concerned place with NLM & Jal Nigam authorities to verify the real position on ground.

Further he has submitted copies of minutes of two meetings and some newspaper clippings in which arsenic presence in drinking water and its related problems have been highlighted from time to time.

Jal Nigam authorities have submitted official documents in their support.

7. FINDINGS:

S. No.	Allegations	Findings
a)	Presence of Arsenic in Ballia district water supply has worsened.	It is confirmed that Arsenic is present in district Ballia Drinking Water Supply. There is no earlier / back ground / water quality periodical monitoring data of concentrations of Arsenic of respective water sources is available. ✓
b)	There are no health check ups and other relevant facilities.	Based on the information from the villages during visits to different villages & sites it is found that this is true that there is no health check up & relevant facilities. ✓
c)	People are succumbing to arsenic induced disease.	In some villages (details given in the respective villages visits) people have shown the patches / spot on body due to arsenic intake. A few families have reported the deaths. PLEASE SEE PAGES 42,43,44,48 ✓ Newspapers have also reported death. One Editorial has mentioned that in Belhari Block of Ballia 69 persons have died since 1997. (Page 98).

		Therefore, it can be concluded that people are succumbing to arsenic induced diseases. Down to earth magazine has reported some deaths (issue September 2004. P-86 to 90)
d)	Construction of 25 overhead tanks 5 years back not yet completed?	: There are total 66 deep tube-well water supply schemes in all 17 Blocks of Ballia. (page.64, 65, 66, 67) NLM & team has visited 5 of them which have not been found satisfactory. The pipe lines are faulty laid, not covered. Frequent bursting of pipes and therefore water supply is not satisfactory.
e)	The drinking water supply at following five places:- (1)Dalan Chhapra (2)Ramgarh (3)Bahuara (4)Sona Barsa (5)Rajpur	: (1) Villages are not getting satisfactory benefits – True. (2) This is because of faulty pipe lying, quality of pipe, non-covering of pipes at most of the places. (3) Leakage / heavy leakage found at several places. TRUE (4) Frequent bursting of pipe-line reported by villagers. TRUE
f)	There is only limited community participation?	: Nowhere it was found that the officials have ever reached there to listen to

		their problems and or to have their suggestions. It is true that almost there is no public participation. ✓
g)	Deep tube-wells 250 ft. deep with sealing by UNICE. These are only 200ft. deep and are without sealing? Villagers demand an enquiry into this.	: NLM is not capable to do this investigation as it requires mechanical engineering skill, lot of time and some man power and necessary tools. ?
h)	District water testing laboratory dysfunctional. Its functioning needs inquires?	: It is true. ✓ A SEPARATE NOTE IS FURNISHED BELOW.
i)	The schemes are running into serious controversy. Reports from local newspapers are high lighting the contractors-engineers nexus.	: Nothing can be said about this sensitive issue. But what has been observed during the visit is given below:- i. At some places people have whispered that without some understanding with officers, contractor can not do this type of faulty work (faulty pipeline, leakage, poor quality of works etc.). ii. At Rajpur Ekauna and also at घोरिय

		<p>Dalan Chhapra (please see page 42.,46...) people gathered there were warned in our presence not to talk anything except himself.</p> <p>iii. From such happenings one can understand that there is some smell of nexus.</p> <p>iv. Local newspaper have also reported such nexus. P-91</p>
j)	<p>Arsenic Removal Unit (ARU) also failure. There is no proper maintenance.</p>	<p>It is TRUE.</p> <p>ARUs are not giving satisfactory expected results as the maintenance is very poor. At none of the ARU places we could find operator & there were complaints from the people.</p>

DISTRICT - BALLIA WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORY

The existing drinking water quality testing laboratory at Ballia was inspected to examine the status of instruments, manpower, general conditions, methodology followed etc. the observations are furnished below:-

1. Shri Ram Bihari (B.Sc.) aged 46 years chemist/head mechanic is on daily wages since June 2000. Only one person is working as a worker/chemist and incharge/head of laboratory and as a sr. mechanic also, no other person is working in the laboratory. (PAGE-54)
2. Very limited instruments are there. These were gifted by UNICEF in 2006. As now their precision and accuracy are very much doubtful because of the dusty conditions and none of the instruments is under AMC (Annual Maintenance Contract). (PAGE -55)
3. Standardization of the instruments is very much doubtful here under the existing very poor conditions.
4. Only testing of a few parameters have been claimed by the authority but these are also doubtful as every testing here is done by visual method which has no scientific acceptance. (PAGE - 56 , 52 , 53)
5. There is no laboratory - library. There is no book on standard methods - to be followed for testing as is done all over the world and India. Even National standard - book is not available. There is no book at all concerning the methodology or otherwise concerning to laboratory. (PAGE -57)
6. Methodology followed for determination of a general testing and some specific parameters like Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity not provided to NLM on his inspection. (The parameters have been (PLEASE SEE PAGES 59, 60, 61, 62)

12) specially mentioned in table format – Provided by Ministry of Rural Dev. to NLM before his visit to Ballia. (Page – 6)

7. Even distilled water washing bottle which is one of the basic simple item in the laboratory is not available.
8. No Lab. – bearer for washing glass ware. It appears from the glassware – conditions that washing has not been done since several weeks.
9. Glass wares also not sufficient.
10. Dust all over working table and instrument table & even inside the mono-pan weighing balance.
11. No record of testing (daily working record was not available).
12. Samples tested per week, per month & per year given on p-58.

8. SUMMARY TABLE OF INVESTIGATION:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Sl. No.	Brief Statement of allegations	Evidence Produced	Evidence not produced	Findings with reasons. True / false / partly true / No clue
1.	Presence of Arsenic in Ballia District water supply.	Enough documentation and literature are available regarding arsenic problem in drinking water supply of Ballia District. (Page .13,74,81,86,98)	_____	True
2.	There is no health check up and other related facilities.	Villagers are not aware of any health check up and facilities.	_____	True
3.	People are succumbing to arsenic induced diseases.	A few families reported the death due to arsenic induced diseases. Village Rajpur Ekanua several residents showed their body full of spots. (Kerotosis, Melonosis) Newspaper editorial showed 69 persons death in Belhari (Ballia) since 1997. (Page .42.,43,44,48,98)	_____	True

4.	Construction of 25 over head tanks. Over head tanks water supply faulty.	There are total 66 over head tanks (deep tubewells) water supply schemes in all 17 blocks of Ballia (Page 64 to 67.) NLM visited 5 of them which have not been found satisfactory. Faulty pipe lines, leakage / bursting pipe lines, no-proper coverage. Therefore, water supply is not satisfactory	---	True
5.	Drinking water supply at following 5 places is faulty and almost very poor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DALAN CHHAPRA • RAMGARH • BAHUARA • SONABARSA • RAJPUR 	Villages are not getting satisfactory benefits because of faulty pipe lines, non-coverage of pipe lines, leakage / bursting of pipe lines.	---	True
6.	There is only limited community participation.	No where it was found from residents/villagers that they have been approached regarding their problems or to	---	True

	have their suggestions. Public participation is almost nil.	Public	
7.	Deep tube wells 250ft. deep with sealings by UNICEF. There are only 200ft deep and are without sealings. Villagers demand an enquiry.	_____	NLM is not capable to do this investigation as it requires mechanical engineering skill and lot of time and some manpower and necessary tools.
8.	District water testing laboratory dysfunctional. Its functioning needs enquiry.	_____	True
9.	The schemes are running into serious controversy. Reports from local newspapers are high lighting	_____	Yes There is some smell of nexus.

	<p>the contractors engineers nexus. Enquiry demanded.</p>	<p>whispered that without some understanding with officials, contractor cannot do this type of faulty work.</p> <p>2. At Rajpur, Ekauna and also at Dalan Chhapra (see page 42, 44) people gathered there were warned in our presence not to talk anything excepts himself.</p> <p>3. From such happening and newspaper reportings one can understand that there is some SMELL of nexus.</p>		
<p>10.</p>	<p>Arsenic removal units (ARU) also failure. There is no proper maintenance.</p>	<p>ARU are not giving expected satisfactory results as the maintenance is very poor. We found no operator at any ARU – place we visited. PAGE 37 To 48</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>True</p>

9. GUILT OF THE PARTIES

GIST OF FINDINGS & RESPONSIBILITY:

- I. The presence of Arsenic in drinking water of Ballia district has become a very serious problem today. People are succumbing to Arsenic induced diseases. The health checkups and relevant facilities & public awareness / participation is lacking very much.
- II. District level water quality testing laboratory at Ballia is almost non-functional. Presently there is no water quality periodical monitoring programme on annual basis for collecting samples for determination of concentrations of Arsenic along with other normal parameters of different respective water sources all over Ballia district.
- III. Deep tube-wells piped water supply is almost very poor because of faulty lying of pipe-lines, frequent leakages / bursting of pipe lines, non-coverage of pipelines and poor quality of material used.
- IV. Villagers / people are not aware of the Arsenic Field testing kits in their villages. In none of the villages visited these kits were available.
- V. Arsenic Removal Units (ARUs) are almost becoming non-functional due to poor maintenance and almost nil attention of concerned authority and poor attendance of operator.
- VI. Concerned officials of Ballia Jal Nigam and higher authorities who are handling the different respective drinking water supply schemes are responsible for all the problems public is facing presently.

- VII. Ballia Jal Nigam Authorities claim the normal functioning of almost every drinking water supply scheme.
- VIII. Delay in execution of work may be due to shortage of staff.
- IX. Sometimes non-functional of schemes are due to shortage of electricity.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. HEALTH CHECK UPS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

- (i) Arsenic in drinking water in Ballia, district of Uttar Pradesh has become a serious problem. To handle this problem it needs the very serious attention of all concerned authorities on war footing.
- (ii) A periodical monitoring health checkups and public participation / awareness active programme on annual basis is the immediate need of to-day so that every village is covered at least once a year with proper records.

For this the health department and public relation set up is to be strengthen with full accountability.

II. INCENTIVES & PENALTIES:

- i. The contractor may be given a reasonable incentive on completion of work on or before specified schedule date.
- ii. Incentive may be say, an amount of Rs. A if completion is exactly on the same specified date.
- iii. It may be an amount of Rs. B per day if completion is before the specified date.

- iv. If the execution of work is delayed beyond the specified / schedule date then the contractor is to pay to the concerned department / authority as penalty / fine of reasonable amount say Rs. C per day or per week.
- v. The aforementioned amount A, B, C may be decided by a committee comprising state, central officials and outside experts and not by state / local district officers only.
- vi. The said committee will decide the completion / incompleteness of work also.

III. ACCOUNTABILITY:

- i) The contractor, after completion of work, will be responsible for failure of getting required results due to the work executed by him.
- ii) The said concerned contractor will repair and do the needful at his own cost for a period of 3/5 years. The period may be decided by the aforementioned committee.

The aforementioned system on implementation is expected to avoid the delay in execution of work for year to years. Some good results may be expected.

WATER QUALITY TESTING LABORATORY AT BALLIA

Suggestion:-

- (i) A well qualified experienced analytical chemist M. Sc. First class with Ph. D should be the incharge) Head of Laboratory. (Not an engineer).
- (ii) Lower Scientific worker / staff should not be less than M. Sc. Chemistry.
- (iii) Helping staff laboratory – bearer etc. should be skilled in handling glass ware etc. properly. A labour of general nature is not fit for the laboratory routine work.
- (iv) Laboratory should be up dated instrument wise, staff wise and library wise and made functional by providing all general facilities.
- (v) Laboratory space may be made available accordingly.
- (vi) Laboratory should not be directly under the local Jal Nigam Ballia engineer. Head of Laboratory should be responsible directly to the H.O. Jal Nigam, Lucknow.

But the laboratory will work mandatorily in coordination with local Jal Nigam, Ballia engineers.

- (vii) Periodically monitoring of drinking water sources should be programmed on annual basis so that each source is covered at least twice in a year. (If more time better).
- (viii) All laboratory staff should be attached fully to the laboratory work only and not to other work of Jal Nigam.
- (ix) Testing of all general parameters including Iron & Fluoride to be covered for each source and not only Arsenic.

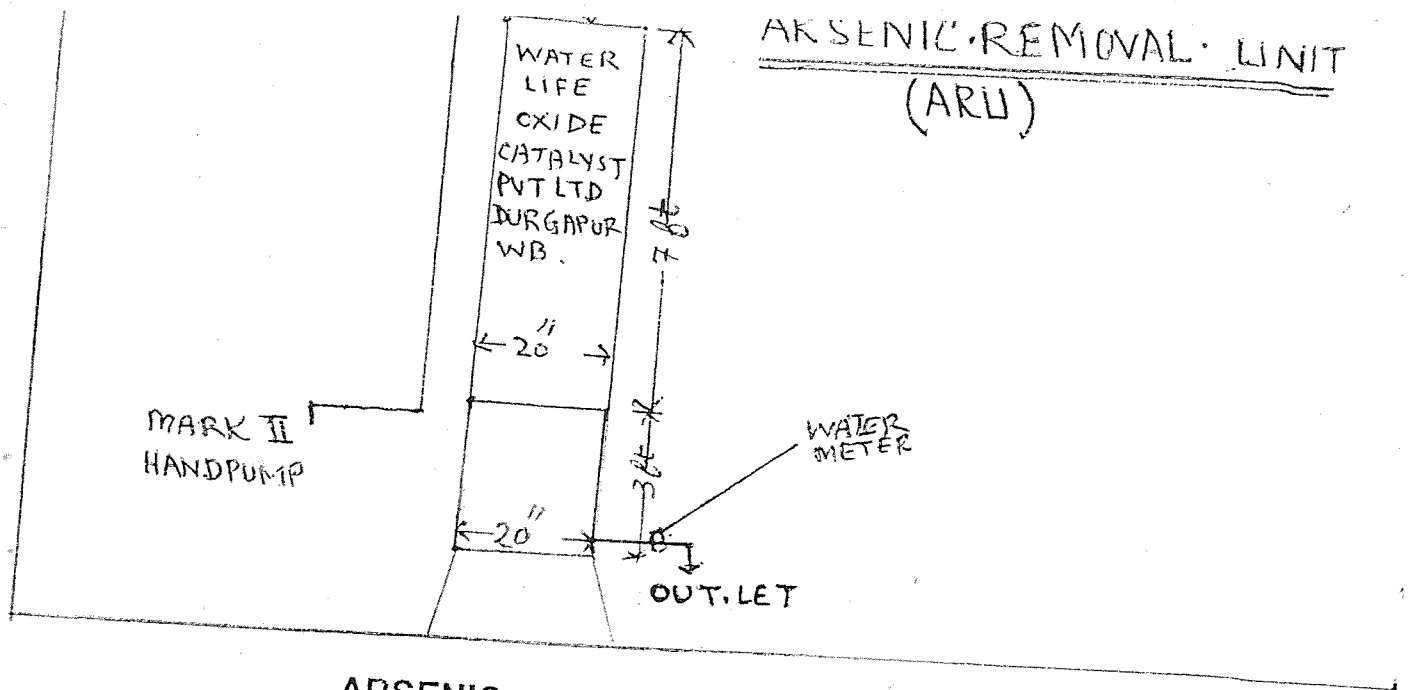
REMARKS:

- i. Based on the experience of NLM it may be mentioned that iron & fluoride problems are also associated with arsenic.
- ii. Iron in ground water under anaerobic conditions is in divalent ferrous (Fe^{++}) form which is soluble in water.

On coming in contact with oxygen of air the divalent soluble ferrous form is converted to (Fe^{+++}) ferric form which is insoluble in water. Such water becomes yellowish / brownish after some time. This has been reported by many villages / people and observed by NLM at several places.

- iii. Like Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.); iron in ferrous dissolved soluble form is fixed at source within a minute then determined its concentration in the laboratory. It gives a colour in the particular range of p^{H} which is achieved by following standard methodology. If that p^{H} is not achieved by chemist then iron is reported as nil though it is present.

FIELD – VISITS



ARSENIC - REMOVAL - UNIT (ARU)

The following two agencies have supplied the Arsenic Removal Units to Jal Nigam on operation & maintenance basis in Ballia district.

(1) 'Water Life' OXIDE CATALYSTS PVT. LTD. - DURGAPUR-19 W.B.

(2) PACIFIC WATER SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD.

(This Unit is smaller than the aforementioned unit)

- i. The cost of each unit is about Rs. 1.45 lac. Including the installation, operation & maintenance cost. Salary of operator is also included.
- ii. The terms & conditions including cost and salary of operator, period of operator was not made available by Jal Nigam Ballia as ARU's have been handled directly by Head Office, Jal Nigam, Lucknow.
- iii. Specifications of ARU's were also not available with Ballia Jal Nigam, Authorities. Manufactures names etc. have been copied as provided on ARU.
- iv. Dimensions are approximate as judged by NLM.
- v. There are 310 ARU's installed in all 17 Blocks of Ballia district.

SEE PAGE - 68

09.06.2011

Village : BASARIKPUR
Block : NAVA NAGAR

- i) Village is about 30 Km. from Ballia.
- ii) There is only one ARU (Arsenic Removal Unit) in this village.
- iii) ARU has been installed on main road behind Mazaar about 8 months back.
- iv) The Unit ARU has been manufactured by: **OXIDE (INDIA) CATALYSTS PVT. LTD. DURGAPUR (W.B.)**
- v) It has been named as 'WATER LIFE'.
- vi) Further no specifications of this ARU were made available.
- vii) Jal Nigam also could not provide any additional specifications.
- viii) Cost of this ARU is about Rs. 1.45 lac including salary of operator for some period as told by A.E. Jal Nigam who accompanied us to this site visit.
- ix) The cost of ARU, salary of operator, period of operator etc. were not provided / confirmed by Jal Nigam as these have been directly dealt by H.O. Jal Nigam Lucknow.
- x) One water meter has been installed with ARU.
- xi) Reading of water meter on the day of visit 09.06.2011 at about 10:30 a.m. was 000406 KL (initial reading not available).
- xii) The operator was not available at site.
- xiii) No Register for recording the operation time, water consumed etc. was available.

- xiv) As per Shri Sameer Khan resident of this village & whose home is very close to the ARU. This Unit has never been cleaned since its installation and the operator is seen only occasionally.
- xv) Very little water is used from this unit ARU.
- xvi) As per the resident / public there is no use of this ARU and there is no benefit to the people.
- xvii) This village has also tube-well water supply. Which is also not upto the mark satisfactory.

09.06.2011

Village : SHISHOTAR (BASARIKPUR)
Adampur Panchayat

- i) Water supply to this village is from Adampur water works complex.
- ii) One over head Tank(OHT) here is under construction.
- iii) Only pillars have been erected so far.
- iv) But as per Jal Nigam AE/JE water supply from tubewell installed for this OHT has been started directly through pipeline.
- v) As per Shri Santosh Kumar and other residents of this village Shishotar, Adampur Panchayat the pipeline testing is going since long and actually there is no regular water supply.
- vi) Only two stand posts have been installed so far.
- vii) Progress of work and water supply programme are highly unsatisfactory.
- viii) People do not know any public-awareness meetings etc.
- ix) No health-check up by Govt.
- x) Arsenic Testing kits not available.

09.06.2011

12.00 Noon

Village : HALDIRAMPUR
Block : SEEYAR

ARU – ARSENIC – REMOVAL – UNIT

- i) Here the Unit (ARU) has been installed by PACIFIC WATER SOLUTIONS LTD. About one year back.
- ii) This ARU is smaller than the other one mentioned earlier manufactured by Oxide Catalysts Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur.
- iii) No operator was available.
- iv) As per Shri Vikram Ram (and other people) residents of this village and also neighbour to ARU; this Unit was installed about 12-13 months back and no one is attending this unit since its installations and there is no water supply since then.
- v) Water meter can be seen from outside but cannot be approached as fencing is locked.
- vi) As per the residents some times back this Unit ARU was painted and afterwards & before that no official / operator has been seen since its installation.
- vii) One over Head Tank Haldi Rampur Block SEEYAR completed.
- viii) No operator / Jal Nigam Ballia person was available.
- ix) People do not know any public-awareness meetings etc.
- x) No health-check up by Govt.
- xi) Arsenic Testing kits not available.

09.06.2011

ARU

02:00 p.m.

Village : TUMHA MOHAN
Block : CHILKAHAR

- i) ARU installed / manufactured by Oxide Catalysts Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur – 19 (WB).
- ii) Present water meter reading 002008 K.L.
- iii) Hand pump mark III not functioning for the last 3 months.
- iv) No operator present. Comes occasionally i.e. not regular.
- v) No register of operation, timing, consumption record available.
- vi) Earlier 1-2 times the back washing of ARU – media was done by the family of Shri M. N. Bharti. (*neighbour*)
- vii) Earlier water (ARU – water) was in use.
- viii) People do not know any public-awareness meetings etc.
- ix) No health-check up by Govt.
- x) Arsenic Testing kits not available.

10.06.2011

Village : RAJPUR / EKAUNA

Block : BELAHARY

- i) Over head tanks not functional.
- ii) Operator not available.
- iii) Arsenic reported by residents very high.
- iv) Tube-well boring was done by CGWB (Central Ground Water Board).
- v) As per the residents boring was done upto 1150-1200 ft. deep but water tapped at 800-850 ft.
- vi) No water supply pipeline is completed and laid down pipeline is defective Shri Promod Choube ex-pradhan of the village warned the residents in our presence not to tell anything to us except himself.
- vii) Spots on Skin of residents seen reported to be because of arsenic.
- viii) In this village Shri Deena Nath a few years back expired due to cancer caused by Arsenic.
- ix) His full story was reported in down to earth magazine (Page.86.).
- x) Shri Ashok Singh, S/o Late Shri Deena Nath aged 47 years showed his body full of spots / patches (KEROTOSIS – MELONOSIS).
- xi) As per him the Jal Nigam Laboratory at Ballia is only for name sake.
- xii) Water to this village is supplied from BAJHARA and there is no water supply presently.

- xiii) Operators / Jal Nigam not found / not available.
- xiv) No monitoring of water quality at all.
- xv) Shri Ram Bahadur Singh also showed lot of spots / patches on his body. His body full of spots.
- xvi) This village is suffering the most.
- xvii) There is a Mark II hand pump also reported as 250 Ft. deep but there a few residents told that it is not so. The sealing is also not done.

10.06.2011

Village : CHAIN – CHAPRA
Block : BELHARI

- i) This is a mixed village.
- ii) The village Chain Chapra and village Hari Harpur are separated by one road in between.
- iii) Here ARU (Small) has been installed.
- iv) Water / muddy water clogged all round the ARU.
- v) Water-meter missing.
- vi) Operator accesses here occasionally since installation that is one year back.
- vii) Water is reddish / yellowish as and when it is operated.
- viii) In general it is not in use.
- ix) The Hand Pump mark II having very high arsenic have been marked RED-CROSS X i.e. means these have been condemned and not to be used.
- x) Shri Brijesh Dube resident of this village has two R.O. installed in his house. Arsenic is upto 2000 Ppb here. Chocking is very frequent.
- xi) In Hari Har Pur village four persons were trained for maintenance of ARU through one NGO.
- xii) They claim that Arsenic, Fluoride & iron are removed by ARU.
- xiii) Shri Babban Dube reported that his wife died due to lever cancer caused by Arsenic. Lever damaged due to arsenic. Treatment done at Patna Hospital Medical College.
- xiv) Shri Babban Dube also mentioned that the maintenance is very poor or is only name sake. Due to the death of his wife he became very ^{em}otional and could not say anything further but was deeply concern with Arsenic Problem.

Village : TOLA SEVAKRAI (SONBARSA)

Block : MURLI CHHAPRA

- i) Big village having 27 habitations (Sonbarsa).
- ii) One O.H.T. is outside of Sonbarsa village area and there is no water from this to any 27 habitations.
- iii) Operator (Private) Shri Muslim Hussain was available.
- iv) At the time of our visit no water in tank.
- v) The water in to tank was started on our demand.
- vi) In one tap, inside the tubewell boundary, water was available but very close to boundary there was a heavy leakage due to pipeline burst and water was not in the pipeline for further supply to the village .
- vii) Therefore, water supply has not been started.
- viii) The pipeline lying is very faulty and of poor quality as per the residents of this village and near by village who were available there.
- ix) Actually there is no water supply.
- x) People do not know any public-awareness meetings etc.
- xi) No health-check up by Govt.
- xii) Arsenic Testing kits not available.

10.06.2011

Village : DALAN CHHAPRA

Block : MURLI CHHAPRA

- i) There is one O.H.T. with good and sufficient area around it with boundary.
- ii) Gate locked from inside and there was no one inside.
- iii) Operator Shri Manji Maun not available but was called on mobile.
- iv) Water supply is not functioning because of faulty pipeline and poor in quality.
- v) Reported stand posts 29 but could see only 3.
- vi) While residents / near by residents were complaining about faulty water supply the operator was warning people not to tell anything negatively to the visiting officers.
- vii) Clipping of local newspaper (Hindustan) of May 2011 in this regard specifically Dalan Chhapra pipe water supply scheme. Please see page ...9.1.....
- viii) Public-awareness regarding their problems including health check ups are not known to them.
- ix) About Arsenic Testing kits people are not aware of such things.

10.06.2011

ARU & OVER HEAD TANK

Village : **BAHUARA**
Block : **MURLI CHHAPRA**

- i) ARU – manufactured and installed by OXIDE (INDIA) Catalysts Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur-19 (W.B.).
- ii) Mark III hand pump needs repairing.
- iii) Operator not available.
- iv) Neighbour are doing / managing.
- v) One O.H.T. is also here.
- vi) Water supply is not available because of weak/poor faulty pipeline.
- vii) Shri Amrish Kumar Singh neighbourhood who cleans ARU remarked that the O.H.T. water supply is almost failure / useless.
- viii) Newspapers (Hindustan) clipping (Please see page 92,94.)
- ix) No health check ups.
- x) No public participation in making them aware of the problems of their area.
- xi) Arsenic testing kit were not seen with any of the residents.

10.06.2011

Village : RAMGARH (GANGAPUR)

Block : BARIYA

- i) O.H.T. – One
- ii) Est. cost 85.86 lacs.
- iii) Capacity 500 K.L.
- iv) Supply 13.6 Km.
- v) Operator Shri Anil Kumar Mishra from Jal Nigal Ballia.
- vi) No water supply from 22nd May 2011.
- vii) Electricity Problem.
- viii) 6.0 – 7.30 a.m. & 5.0 – 6.0 p.m. water supply.
- ix) Constructed in 2009.
- x) Chlorination not done because of approach to tank is not safe.
- xi) Water turns yellowish/brownish after standing for some time.
- xii) Several deaths have been reported from this village while many people are suffering due to cancer. Concerned reports and clipping of newspaper (Please see pages 96, 97, 100, 102, 103, 104)
- xiii) Arsenic testing kits were not found and people do not know about it.
- xiv) People do not have any knowledge about the programming of health checkups.
- xv) Public participation is further almost nil as known from residents.

ANNEXURE - CONTENTS

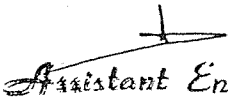
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NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

Question:-	Arsenic Testing-Kit supplied to Villages and Block-wise detailed information.
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	Field Test-Kit for Arsenic has been distributed directly to the Block by Head Quarter Lucknow U.P. Jal Nigam. 835 Nos Kit. (List Separately available)
--	--


Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia



1876
27-4-10

सायुदायिक सहभागिता इकाई

उ. प्र. जल निगम

6. राधा प्रताप मार्ग, लखनऊ-226001

पत्रांक: 530/ रुखू-20 /138

दि. 08.03.08

सेवा में,

मुख्य विकास अधिकारी

बलिया।

विषय-राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण पेयजल गुणवत्ता एवं अनुश्रवण कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत रासायनिक परीक्षण के सम्बन्ध में।

महोदय,

अधिसूची निदेशक, राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, लखनऊ के निर्देशानुसार राजीव गांधी राष्ट्रीय पेयजल मिशन द्वारा वित्त पोषित जल गुणवत्ता अनुश्रवण एवं सतर्कता कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत जनपद बलिया के 17 विकास खण्डों के राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन द्वारा सूचित 835 ग्राम पंचायतों में समस्त पेयजल स्रोतों के परीक्षण में प्रयोग हेतु संलग्न सूची के अनुसार सार्वजनिक विरोध वाहक के माध्यम से खण्ड विकास अधिकारियों को प्रेषित किया जा रहा है।

संलग्न - सार्वजनिक सूची।

भवदीय

(आर. एन. त्रिपाठी)
संयुक्त निदेशक

प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनाएँ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित-

1. महा निदेशक, दीनदयाल उपाध्याय राज्य ग्राम्य विकास संस्थान, बखी का तालाब, लखनऊ।
2. निदेशक, राज्य पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता मिशन, संचार एवं क्षमता संवर्धन इकाई, ग्राम्य विकास विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश, 6, सरोजनी नायडू मार्ग, लखनऊ।
3. मुख्य अभियन्ता (ग्रामीण), उ० प्र० जल निगम, लखनऊ।
4. जिला विकास अधिकारी, बलिया।
5. प्रतिलिपि जनपद बलिया के समस्त खण्ड विकास अधिकारी, को इस अध्याय से प्रेषित कि कृपया सार्वजनिक प्राकृतिक सतर्कता वाहक को उपलब्ध कराने का कष्ट करें।
6. अधिसूची अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, आसनगढ़ को इस अनुरोध के साथ प्रेषित कि कृपया सार्वजनिक सार्वजनिक से उक्त विवरणानुसार पत्रवाहक को हस्तगत कराने का कष्ट करें।
7. प्राचार्य ग्राम्य विकास संस्थान, बसनेवा, इलाहाबाद को इस अनुरोध के साथ प्रेषित कि कृपया सार्वजनिक से प्राप्त 835 फील्ड टेस्ट किट एवं उक्त विवरणानुसार पत्रवाहक को हस्तगत कराने का कष्ट करें।
8. प्राचार्य ग्राम्य विकास संस्थान, बलिया को इस अनुरोध के साथ प्रेषित कि कृपया सार्वजनिक से प्राप्त 202 गम H₂S Vials को उक्त विवरणानुसार पत्रवाहक को हस्तगत कराने का कष्ट करें।

19/04/10
अधिकारी को सूचना के लिए प्रेषित

संयुक्त निदेशक

27/4/10
31/3/10

विकास खण्डों में वितरित साहजी की सूची

जमाफत : दलिया

क्र. संख्या	विकास खण्ड का नाम	ग्राम पंचायतों की संख्या	फील्ड टेस्ट किट की संख्या (रासायनिक परीक्षण के लिए) For As, Fe, PH Value, TDS, P, Ca etc.	H ₂ S Vials की संख्या (100 वायलेंस के पैकेट में) Bacteriology Kit
1	देरिया	30	30	3000
2	बांसडीह	49	49	4900
3	बेलहरी	31	31	3100
4	देरुआरवारी	33	33	3300
5	दिलवाहर	62	62	6200
6	दुन्दह	53	53	5300
7	गखार	63	63	6300
8	हनुमानगंज	53	53	5300
9	जिंदर	41	41	4100
10	मुरली छपरा	23	23	2300
11	नगरा	81	81	8100
12	नवानगर	46	46	4600
13	पन्दह	41	41	4100
14	रसडा	65	65	6500
15	रेवती	44	44	4400
16	सिदर	75	75	7500
17	सोडाव	45	45	4500
	योग-	835	835	83500



DISTRICT LABORATORY

CONSTR DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM, BALLIA
PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS REPORT OF WATER SAMPLES

1. Sample received's from.....
2. Date of obtaining sample.....

SL No.	Source of Sample	TURBIDITY NTU	Colour Hazen unit	Taste & Odour	Residual, free chlorine mg/l	pH value	Dissolved solids mg/l	Chlorides (as Cl) mg/l	Sulphate (as SO ₄) mg/l	Fluoride (as F) mg/l	Nitrate as NO ₃ mg/l	Nitrate as NO ₂ mg/l	Calcium (as Ca) Max	Magnesium (as Ca) Max	Iron (as Fe) (mg/l) Max	Total hardness (as Ca CO ₃) (Mg/l) Max	Arsenic C	Dissolved Oxygen (D.O) mg/l	Bio-Chemical oxygen Demand mg/l	Microbiological quality		Conclusive Results
																				Faecal Coliforms	Coliform Organisms	
IS : 10500 1983	Allowable in absence of alternate sources	25	50	Unobj	0.5	9.5	3000	1000	400	1.5	45	1	200	100	1.0	600	1	1	Less than 6	0	3	C
	Acceptable	10	10	Unobj	0.2	6.5 to 8.5	500	250	150	6.5 to 1.2	45	1	75	30	0.3	300	1	More than 6	1	0	A	
	BLOCK Rabi																					
	will Bhoopal pur																					
(1)	w/S T-4 150' to 160'	4	C.L	UB	-	7.5	600	125	-	0.7	40	-	65	-	0.6	240	0.08	-	-	-		A
(2)	250' to 265'	2	C.L	UB	-	7.0	500	100	-	0.5	30	-	50	-	0.4	210	0.4	-	-	-		A
(3)	375' to 385'	2	C.L	UB	-	7.0	200	85	-	0.3	25	-	45	-	0.2	190	0.1	-	-	-		A

SPECIAL REMARK

Tested by

[Signature]
CHEMIST

(52)

[Signature]
ASSISTANT ENGINEER

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

DISTRICT LABORATORY

CONSTR DIVISION, U.P. JAL NIGAM, BALLIA
PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL ANALYSIS REPORT OF WATER SAMPLES

Sl. No.	Source of Sample	TURBIDITY NTU MAX	Colour Hazen unit	Taste & Odour	Residual, free chlorine/mg/l Max	pH value	Dissolved solids mg/l Max	Chlorides (as Cl) mg/l Max	Sulphate (as SO ₄) mg/l Max	Fluoride (as F) mg/l	Nitrate as NO ₃ mg/l Max	Nitrate as NO ₂ mg/l Max	Calcium (as Ca) Max	Magnesium (as Ca) Max	Iron (as Fe) Mg/l Max	Total hardness (as Ca CO ₃) Mg/l Max	Arsenic (O.D.) mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) mg/l	Bio-Chemical oxygen Demand mg/l Less than 6	Microbiological quality			Conclusive Results	
																				Faecal Coliforms	Coliform Organ- isms	C		
IS : 10500 1983	Allowable in absence of alternate sources	25	50		0.5	9.5	3000	1000	400	1.5	5	1	200	100	1.0	600	1	1	Less than 6	0	3	C	Unsatisfactory	
	Acceptable	10	10	Unobjec- tionable	0.2	6.5 to 8.5	500	250	150	6.5 to 1.2	5	1	75	30	0.3	300	1	More than 6	0	0	A	Satisfactory		
	Block Subhar vill Sarsa Badh (Bishampur) w/s T. W.																							
(1)	160' to 210'	4	CL	UB	-	7.5	400	90	-	0.6	3.5	-	55	-	0.6	210	0.01	0.01	-	-	0	0	A	Satisfactory
(2)	216' to 220'	2	CL	UB	-	7.0	200	90	-	0.2	3.5	-	45	-	0.3	175	0.01	0.01	-	-	0	0	A	Satisfactory

SPECIAL REMARK

Tested by

[Signature]
CHEMIST

[Signature]
ASSISTANT ENGINEER

(53)

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

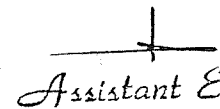
DETAILS OF LABORATORY STAFF IN BALLIA TESTING LAB

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Date of Birth/Age	Qualification	Specialization if any	Presently involve in which analysis and testing
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Rambihari Singh *	Chemist/ Head Mechanic	01/12/1964 (46 Years)	B.Sc.	NIL	All type of Analysis
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

* Mr. Rambihari Chemist/ Head Mechanic is on daily wages since appointment June-2000. Salary per months Rs. 13186.00. He is the incharge of Distt. Laboratory Ballia.

STATUS OF THE INSTRUMENTS IN THE TESTING LABORATORY AT BALLIA.

Sl.No.	Name of Instrument	Instruments suppliers name and address	Month/Year of Purchase	Present functional status	Present status of AMC	Period of AMC	AMC services are satisfactory/ Not satisfactory
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	UV- 1 Thermo Spectronic	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
2	EPSON LX300 + (Printer)	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
3	Weighing Balance	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
4	Hot Air Oven	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
5	pH Meter	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
6	Hot Plate	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
7	Water Bath	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
8	Distil Water Plant	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A
9	Digital turbidity Meter	By UNISEF	2006	Working Position	No AMC	No AMC	N/A


 Assistant Engineer
 Construction Division
 Ballia

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

General parameters determination and their methodology in brief in Ballia testing laboratory.


Sl.No.	Parameter	Methodology
1	Calcium (as Ca)	Visual Method
2	Chloride (as Cl)	Visual Method
3	Fluoride (as F)	Visual Method
4	Total Hardness (as CaCo ₃)	Visual Method
5	Iron (as Fe)	Visual Method
6	Nitrate (as No ₃)	Visual Method
7	pH	Visual Method
8	TDS	Visual Method
9	Turbidity (NTU)	Visual Method
10	Arsenic ©	Visual Method

Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA


Question:-	Which standard method is generally followed for the analysis in the lab, give full details including edition of books followed.
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	No Book available in laboratory.
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Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

SAMPLE TESTING STATUS AT DISTT. LABORATORY BALLIA

Sl.No.	No of Samples tested (Period 04/10 to 03/11)				Parameters tested
	Per Week	Per Month	Per Year	Average Per Year	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	52	210	2510	-	Calcium (as Ca)
					Chloride (as Cl)
					Fluoride (as F)
					Total Hardness (as CaCo3)
					Iron (as Fe)
					Nitrate (as No3)
					pH
					TDS
					Turbidity (NTU)
					Arsenic ©


Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

METHODOLOGY OF DETERMINATION OF SOME SPECIFIC PARAMETERS I DISTT. BALLIA-TESTING LAB.

1	Arsenic	
	Method of determination:-	Field Test Kit
	Precision / accuracy of method and instruments used	

Assistant Engineer
 Construction Division
 P.O. Ballia - Ballia

METHODOLOGY OF DETERMINATION OF SOME SPECIFIC PARAMETERS I DISTT. BALLIA-TESTING LAB.

1	<u>Iron</u>		
	Method of determination:-		Visual Method
	Precision/accuracy of method and instruments used.		

(60)

/
 Assistant Engineer
 Construction Division
 U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

METHODOLOGY OF DETERMINATION OF SOME SPECIFIC PARAMETERS I DISTT. BALLIA-TESTING LAB.

1	Fluoride	
	Method of determination:-	Visual Method
	Precision/accuracy of method and instruments used.	

(61)

Assistant Engineer
 Construction Division
 I.P. Ballia - Ballia

METHODOLOGY OF DETERMINATION OF SOME SPECIFIC PARAMETERS I DISTT. BALLIA-TESTING LAB.

1	Salinity	
	Method of determination:-	Not done in Lab.
	Precision/acuracy of method.	


Assistant Engineer
 Conservation Division
 U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

Question:-	About 25* Over-Head Tanks have been constructed at the following places, please give the details whether completed/under construction/functional/non-functional.	
	1- Dalan Chhapra	Complete (Mar-2010)
	2- Ramgarh	Complete (Mar-2010)
	3- Bahuara	Complete (Mar-2010)
	4- Sonbarsa	Complete (Mar-2010)
	5- Raipur	Complete (Mar-2010)

* up dated

Note: There are five drinking water supply schemes, these Schemes are functional.


Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड, उ०प्र० जल निगम, बलिया

आर्सेनिक प्रभावित बस्तियों में पेयजल आपूर्ति का विवरण

माह- दिसम्बर 2010 तक

कुल बस्तियों की संख्या

निर्माण खण्ड	203
द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड	107
	310

1 गहरे हैण्डपम्पों से लाभान्वित बस्तियों की संख्या

निर्माण खण्ड	87
द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड	16
	103

2 पाईप पेयजल योजनाओं से लाभान्वित बस्तियों का विवरण

क्रमांक	पाईप पेयजल योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	लाभान्वित बस्तियों की संख्या	लाभान्वित होने का वर्ष
	<i>निर्माण खण्ड</i>			
1	गंगापुर रामगढ़ पाईप पेयजल योजना	86.85	13	2008-09
2	दलनछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना	85.13	6	2009-10
3	बजरहां पाईप पेयजल योजना	47.62	6	2009-10
4	केहरपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	40.50	3	2009-10
5	बसुधरपाह पाईप पेयजल योजना	51.55	1	2009-10
6	बहुआरा पाईप पेयजल योजना	89.60	5	2007-08
7	सोनबरसा पाईप पेयजल योजना	82.60	3	2007-08
8	जयप्रकाश नगर पाईप पेयजल योजना	29.97	4	2009-10
9	छाता/नारायणपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	17.15	3	2009-10
10	इब्राहिमाबाद उपरवार पाईप पेयजल योजना	79.30	1	2009-10
11	भीखाछपरा/रानीगंज पाईप पेयजल योजना	168.74	7	2009-10
			1	2010-11
12	बैरिया पाईप पेयजल योजना	23.12	2	2009-10
			1	2010-11
13	आमघाट पाईप पेयजल योजना	91.60	1	2010-11
otal	13 पाईप पेयजल योजना	893.73	57	-
	<i>द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड</i>			
1	भोजपुरवां पाईप पेयजल योजना	30.73	1	2009-10
2	सुल्तानपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	69.53	10	2009-10
3	बरियारपुर/हुसेनाबाद पाईप पेयजल योजना	10.58	2	2009-10

4	हल्दीरामपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	99.86	3	2009-10
Total	04 पाईप पेयजल योजना	210.70	16	-
Grand Total	17 पाईप पेयजल योजना	1104.43	73	-

3 निर्माणाधीन पाईप पेयजल योजनाओं में सम्मिलित बस्तियों का विवरण

क्रमांक	पाईप पेयजल योजना का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	सम्मिलित बस्तियों की संख्या
	<i>निर्माण खण्ड</i>		
1	दलपतपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	75.66	3
2	गोपालपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	96.33	5
3	मानगढ़ पाईप पेयजल योजना	67.75	1
4	नगवां पाईप पेयजल योजना	89.47	1
5	चांददीयर पाईप पेयजल योजना (सोलर लाईट)	7.35	1
6	मेघामठ पाईप पेयजल योजना (सोलर लाईट)	7.35	1
7	दयाछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना	104.88	3
8	उदवन्तछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना	244.10	7
9	आमडारी (जोन-1) पाईप पेयजल योजना	112.29	2
Total	09 पाईप पेयजल योजना	805.18	24
	<i>द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड</i>		
1	हड़िहांकलां पाईप पेयजल योजना	106.99	5
2	शीशोटार पाईप पेयजल योजना	99.53	1
Total	02 पाईप पेयजल योजना	206.52	6
Grand Total	11 पाईप पेयजल योजना	1011.70	30

4 पाईप पेयजल योजनाएं जिनकी स्वीकृति हेतु डी0पी0आर0 मुख्यालय में प्रस्तुत किया जा चुका है। जिनकी स्वीकृति अभी प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

क्रमांक	पाईप पेयजल योजना का नाम	सम्मिलित बस्तियों की संख्या
	<i>निर्माण खण्ड</i>	
1	सोहांव पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	1
2	सोहांव पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	1

3	सोहांव पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-3)	1
4	भीखाछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना	1
5	हृदयपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	1
6	हृदयपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	2
7	सावरूबांध पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	1
8	पिपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	1
9	बैरिया पाईप पेयजल योजना	5
Total	09 पाईप पेयजल योजना	14
<i>द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड</i>		
1	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	13
2	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	6
3	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-3)	4
4	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-4)	5
5	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-5)	2
6	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-6)	7
7	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-7ए0)	2
8	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-7बी0)	2
9	भोजछपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-8)	2
10	खरिका पाईप पेयजल योजना	3
11	महाधनपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	7
12	गोपालनगर पाईप पेयजल योजना	1
13	चांदपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-1)	3
14	चांदपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	5
Total	14 पाईप पेयजल योजना	62
Grand Total	23 पाईप पेयजल योजना	76

5 पाईप पेयजल योजनाएं जिनका विरचन किया जा रहा है।

क्रमांक	पाईप पेयजल योजना का नाम	सम्मिलित बस्तियों की संख्या
<i>निर्माण खण्ड</i>		
1	हृदयपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-3)	4

2	हृदयपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-4)	1
3	तालिबपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	4
4	बैजनाथपुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	3
5	गंगापुर पाईप पेयजल योजना	1
6	नौवरंगा पाईप पेयजल योजना	1
7	पिपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	1
8	पिपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-3)	1
9	पिपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-4)	1
10	पिपरा पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-5)	1
11	आमडारी पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	1
12	आमडारी पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-3)	1
13	सौरुबांध पाईप पेयजल योजना (जोन-2)	1
Total	13 पाईप पेयजल योजना	21
	<i>द्वितीय प्रकल्प खण्ड</i>	
1	जमधरवां पाईप पेयजल योजना	3
2	झरकटहां पाईप पेयजल योजना	4
Total	02 पाईप पेयजल योजना	7
Grand Total	15 पाईप पेयजल योजना	28

Total 66 schemes

18/11


अधिशारी अभियन्ता

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

Question:- What is the status of 9 ongoing schemes, capital cost of each scheme how many total and Arsenic Affected habitations are expected to be covered under each scheme and when these schemes are likely to be completed?

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Total No. of Habitations	Arsenic Affected Habitations	Year of Completion
1	Dalpatpur W/S Scheme	75.66	3	3	Jun-11
2	Gopalpur W/S Scheme	96.33	5	5	Sep-11
3	Mangarh W/S Scheme	67.75	1	1	Mar-12
4	Nagwa W/S Scheme	89.47	1	1	Mar-12
5	Chand Diyar W/S Scheme	7.35	1*	1*	Mar-11
6	Megha Math W/S Scheme	7.35	1*	1*	Mar-11
7	Daya Chhapra W/S Scheme	104.88	3	3	Mar-12
8	Udwant Chhapra W/S Scheme	244.10	7	7	Jun-11
9	Amdari W/S Scheme (Zone-i)	112.29	2	2	Jul-11

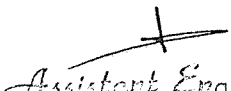
Note: * These habitations are covered by Extra Deep India Mark-2 H.P. Other all are tube well water supply schemes.


 Assistant Engineer
 Construction Division
 U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

Question:-	What is the status of 3 ongoing schemes taken up during 2010-11. How many Arsenic-Affected habitations are likely to be covered and by what date?
-------------------	---

Sl.No.	Name of Piped W/S Scheme	Name of Habitations	Current Status
1	Mangarh W/S Scheme	Mangarh (Khas)	Work is under progress and It will be covered Mar-2012
2	Gopalpur W/S Scheme	Gopalpur (Khas) Dubey Chhapra Baksi Udai Chhapra Prasad Chhapra	Work is under progress and It will be covered Sep-2011
3	Dalpatpur W/S Scheme	Dalpatpur (Khas) Pal Toli Yadav Basti	Work is under progress and It will be covered June-2011


Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME DISST. BALLIA

Question:-	As per the National Rural Drinking Water programme these are 231* water supply affected habitations of which 229* are Arsenic affected. Whether 100% public Drinking water sources in the district have been tested for detecting Arsenic? * update the data if there is a change.
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Ans.	100% public drinking water sources have been tested in 310 Arsenic Affected habitations
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Assistant Engineer
Construction Division
U.P. Jal Nigam - Ballia

**AS PER NATIONAL RURAL DRINKING WATER PROGRAMME
2010-11 AS ON 01-04-2010**

Coverage of quality affected habitants in followings blocks have been achieved for Arsenic


Sl.No.	Block	Target Achieved	Target Achieved updated	*. How may samples collected and analysed for Arsenic. *. Separately furnish the analysed report of each
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bairiya	25	42	
2	Belhari	5	23	
3	Chilkahar	1	1	
4	Dubhad	35	38	
5	Hanumanganj	4	3	
6	Maniyar	8	19	
7	Murli Chhapra	14	31	
8	Navanagar	1	2	
9	Revati	2	4	
10	Siar	1	4	
11	Sohaon	7	7	
12	Bansdih		2	
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
Total		103	176	

These 103 habitations/schemes (updated habitations/schemes are actually providing arsenic free water? Whether these are fully functional?

176 habitations which have been covered by water supply schemes and Extra Deep India Mark-2 H.P. are fully functional.

Note: Data has been updated.

(73)


 District Engineer
 Noida
 U.P.

No. W-11014/ 02/ 2008/ DWS.II
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
Department of Drinking Water Supply

Saurabh Singh

9th Floor, Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex Lodhi Road,
New Delhi – 110 003

Dated: 9.6.2008

To

1. Dr. J. N. Chamber, Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
2. Shri A.K. Srivastava, Chief Engineer, U.P. Jal Nigam, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow
3. Mr. Dara Johnston, UNICEF, New Delhi
4. Shri Saurabh Singh, Inner-voice Foundation

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held in the Department of Drinking Water Supply on Arsenic contamination in drinking water in Uttar Pradesh

2008

Sir,

Please find enclosed minutes of the meeting held on 4.6.2008 in the Committee Room of Secretary, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India to discuss the reported Arsenic contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, for information and necessary action.

Please see Para-6 and 5

Yours faithfully,

Bharat Lal

[Bharat Lal]

Director (DWS)

community in planning, implementation, operation and maintenance of the systems especially within the village, as they are the most critical stakeholders. People's involvement is non-negotiable and their suggestions for simple, logical and local solutions should be taken into account. He requested Shri Saurabh Singh to give his feedback and share the field situation.

5. Shri Saurabh Singh expressed his disappointment with the progress of these projects on the ground. In Ballia district, people have no choice except to continue consuming Arsenic contaminated water. There is hardly any information being shared with the local people and concept of people's participation is alien to the local authorities. People in the area have sufficient wisdom and knowledge to come up with simple, logical and local solutions but they are not being allowed to participate in the water supply programme. It is totally supply-driven, unrealistic and unsustainable programme, which have been planned. He has approached the local authorities a number of times with a request to share the information about the proposed water supply schemes, but in vain. In the district, there is hardly any IEC, HRD and awareness programme on Arsenic contamination and its ill effects, being implemented. He came to know that U.P. Jal Nigam is preparing a surface water-based mega pipe water supply scheme to provide drinking water to a large number of villages. However no one knows details of the scheme. He said that in view of the attitude and performance of local authorities, he is very skeptical about performance, operation & maintenance and long-term sustainability of such a mega schemes. It might prove to be a white elephant. He also mentioned that there is no programme for the treatment of local people affected with Arsenic contamination. Their problem is getting further compounded as they continue to consume Arsenic affected water. He made an appeal that these major concerns should be addressed and local people should start getting Arsenic free water both in short term as well as on long term.

6. Shri Bharat Lal, Director, DoDWS mentioned that in 2006-07 and 2007-08, 4 projects under Revised Sub-mission at a total cost of Rs. 164.99 crore has been sanctioned to Uttar Pradesh with a GoI share of Rs. 118.10 crore, out of which Rs. 33.09 crore have been released. During 2008-09 and thereafter, State has been authorized to utilize 20% ARWSP funds on tackling water quality problems and also prioritize the Arsenic and Fluoride problem in the State. In 2008-09, State was provided Rs. 607.79 crore and in 2009-10, Rs. 685.76 crore has been allocated. In addition, State share is also there. The projects sanctioned were to cover 347 Arsenic-affected habitations and on completion, will provide safe drinking water to the local people. He also mentioned that latest updated report of the State shows that in the State, there are 873 habitations having Arsenic contamination out of which, 310 habitations in Ballia district. Since most of these schemes are individual village water supply schemes, normally in 12-18 months, these schemes should have been completed. However, it is almost 2-3 years, but schemes have not been completed, which is a matter of deep concern.

7. Secretary, DWS requested the Principal Secretary (RD), Uttar Pradesh to provide the details about the problem and plan of action to solve the problem. Principal

Secretary, RD, UP mentioned that he has just joined the Department and would look in to the matter. The work on these projects are going on, though, there has been considerable delay. He assured the Secretary, DWS, that by December, 2009 all these projects will be completed. He also said that he will discuss with the Health Department and ensure that effective action for screening of patient and their treatment is taken. He also mentioned that he will ensure that proper IEC and awareness campaign on Arsenic and Fluoride contamination, are launched in the State and information is shared with the local communities and as well as local NGOs/ activists. He also said that he has been informed that for Ballia district, a surface water-based water supply scheme is being prepared by the UP Jal Nigam. He asked the MD, UP Jal Nigam, to provide the details of the same.

8. MD, UP Jal Nigam, mentioned that in case of Ballia, ground water in the 2nd strata (120-160 ft. deep) has Arsenic contamination, whereas 3rd strata have no Arsenic. He said that 2½ years back, 7 schemes were sanctioned which are under implementation and are expected to be complete by December, 2009. He also said that many people have expressed concern that by going to 3rd strata, we are puncturing the 2nd strata, which may lead to leaching of Arsenic into 3rd strata. In view of this, it has been decided to plan and construct a surface water-based (Ganga river water) pipe water supply scheme for safe drinking water to about 300 Arsenic-affected villages in Ballia. The scheme preparation is an advanced stage. It would cost about Rs. 600 crore and will be completed in 3 years. He mentioned that local people are not aware of this development and that is why they are agitating. He also explained the reasons for slow progress of tube well-based water supply schemes which is taking more than 2½ years to complete. However, Secretary, DWS asked him to pay more attention on the implementation of these schemes and complete the same without any further delay. MD, UP Jal Nigam informed that in the state, they had 1,018 Arsenic contaminated habitations out of which, water supply projects have been approved for 765 habitations. Out of these 765 habitations, schemes relating to 151 habitations have been commissioned and work on the remaining 614 habitations is at different stages of implementation. He also mentioned that water supply schemes of 253 habitations are yet to be approved.

9. Mr. Dara Johnston, WES Specialist, UNICEF said that there is no scientific proof that by puncturing 2nd strata to reach 3rd strata for drawing safe water, Arsenic will leach to the Arsenic-free 3rd strata. There is no doubt that surface water-based small schemes/ systems which can be managed by the local community would be the best option. In case of big sized surface water-based water supply schemes, the local community has to be fully assured of its proper operation and maintenance and long-term sustainability. He mentioned that prudent course of action would be to use surface water for drinking purposes, but local people should be involved from day one so that they develop sense of ownership of the system.

10. Joint Secretary, DWS, mentioned that there is a need to set up a system for continuous check up of the people, affected by the consumption of Arsenic contaminated water as has been done in Bangladesh. In fact, to sensitize the U.P. State

participate in a one-week Arsenic mitigation programme. The knowledge and experience they have gained during the visit should be used in Arsenic mitigation. He regretted that it has not been done so far.

11. Shri Bharat Lal, Director, DoDWS, said that there are few issues which State has to address on priority basis. It is the responsibility of the State to provide safe water in such areas on priority basis and it should find out a way out to provide safe water in short term as well as on a permanent basis. The slow implementation of water supply schemes is a matter of deep concern. Under the Revised Sub-mission on water quality, the Department is not aware of the progress of implementation, utilization of funds, etc. He also mentioned that Rs. 51,75.47 lakh have been provided under NRDWQM&S programme out of which, Rs. 31,92.65 lakh is reported to have been utilized. Against the target to train 2,68,875 persons for testing the water quality in the villages, so far 2,617 persons only are reported to have been trained. From this, it appears that if only such a small number of people have been trained and State have incurred so much expenditure, it means State must have bought water quality testing kits, which must be lying un-utilized. Most of these kits have limited shelf life and there is a danger of these kits crossing expiry date. We are not sure whether State officials are alive to this fact or not. State must ensure that at least five persons must be trained in each Gram Panchayat and sufficient IEC should be carried out so that people become aware of various aspects of water quality problems especially on Arsenic and Fluoride. In fact, based on these testing reports, they should prepare their annual action plan for mitigation of the problem. He also said that UNICEF should work with local CBOs and voluntary organizations to bring awareness on various aspects of Arsenic contamination and its impact on human life, especially among women and children. UNICEF should take up this as a priority activity.

12. He also said that the implementation of Jalmani programme in the State is very slow. In addition to Arsenic and Fluoride problems, as the State is located in Indo-Gangetic belt, they face huge problems of bacteriological contamination and children are most vulnerable. He said that against the target to cover 6,892 schools with standalone water purification system for providing safe water for which Rs. 13,36.44 lakh has been provided to the State during the last financial year, no progress is reported. In most of the areas, probably cost of systems will be very less as bacteriological contamination is the only serious problem, and therefore more rural schools can be covered. They must ensure that all such schools located in villages having Arsenic and Fluoride contamination are either provided with safe water from alternative sources or as per need, standalone water treatment systems should be installed and are run to provide safe water to school children. He also mentioned that having such a mega water supply grid without involvement of local community and arrangement for 'in-village sustainable management', running the same for 365 days throughout its life span is almost an impossible task. State must do proper techno-economic appraisal to ensure that it is a viable solution. Moreover, running such a system without having any O&M arrangement will be a permanent financial liability on

the State as it is not a very cost effective system and should be the last option. They must promote 'conjunctive use of water' and proper strategy to ensure access to safe water to all throughout the year should be worked out.

13. While summing up, Secretary, DWS summarized the decision taken and following course of action was agreed to:

- i.) State must consult the local people and share information with them, which is a pre-requisite. Since their day-to-day life is affected, all plans and details of the schemes should be shared with them and their view are taken into account. While planning any scheme, people's needs and priorities must be ascertained.
- ii.) Arsenic contamination is one of the worst contaminants and it should be taken with all seriousness. It is important that in the Arsenic affected areas, survey report on water quality testing source-wise has to be perfect and based on the same, plan of action should be prepared, which is to be implemented in a fixed timeframe. All the remaining Arsenic affected habitations should be prioritized for providing safe drinking water both on immediate basis as well as on permanent basis, as it is one of the most damaging contaminants.
- iii.) After testing all Arsenic contaminated tube wells beyond permissible limits should be closed/ sealed and alternate arrangement should be made on immediate basis. In schools of such village, arrangement of safe water should be made on priority.
- iv.) There can be 'dual water supply' approach in such areas i.e. safe and clean water for drinking and cooking purposes, and for washing, bathing and other purposes, water from local water bodies, etc. can be used.
- v.) State may also dovetail funds from different sources viz. NREGA, watershed development, etc. to revive and de-silting of water bodies in each village. Wherever possible, water bodies should be created and in this, NREGA fund could be of immense help. In each village, an 'adarsh talab' should be constructed, which will be highly useful for providing water for different purposes.
- vi.) State must launch IEC campaign in a big way and awareness campaign using local resources and talents should be carried out. Based on village-wise survey data, training and awareness generation among local community for testing Arsenic contamination should be launched without any further delay. For this purpose, GoI is providing 100% assistance.
- vii.) UNICEF should also take up IEC, HRD and awareness programme in collaboration with local CBOs, voluntary agencies as women and children are amongst the most vulnerable.

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- vii.) UNICEF should also take up IEC, HRD and awareness programme in collaboration with local CBOs, voluntary agencies as women and children are amongst the most vulnerable.

- viii.) Conjunctive use of water should be promoted viz. water from 2-3 sources in different seasons, should be the approach to achieve the long-term sustainability. Rainwater harvesting should be given a top priority.
- ix.) Similarly, State must prioritize the utilization of funds on different projects and all schemes/ projects should be completed in the approved timeframe, as delay causes serious problems.
- x.) Addressing drinking water problems in the Arsenic affected habitations must be given top priority and a timeframe should be prepared and shared with the Government of India. This plan of action should be monitored on regular basis.
- xi.) UP Jal Nigam should work closely with the Health Department for screening of Arsenic patients/ affected people. Such campaign should be carried out in those places where Arsenic contamination has been detected.
- xii.) Allocation under RWS to Uttar Pradesh during the current year has been increased substantially and State must strive to utilize these funds carefully to address such problems in a focused manner.
- xiii.) Water Quality testing through labs and water quality monitoring and surveillance programme should be given a top priority. This will help the authorities in keeping a tab on the problems.
- xiv.) District laboratories should be strengthened and the public should be encouraged to come up and get their water tested. In Arsenic as well as Fluoride affected areas, district laboratories must be strengthened on priority.
- xv.) In Arsenic as well as Fluoride affected habitations, wherever, permanent solution may take time, option of standalone water treatment system should be explored to provide at least 7-8 litre water /person per day for drinking and cooking purposes. In any case, Arsenic contaminated habitations should be given immediate attention and priority.
- xvi.) States should study the village-wise contamination pattern and keeping in view the severity as well as lack of alternate safe sources of drinking water, should work out a plan to provide safe water to children in schools by installing standalone water purification systems. However, for this purpose, proper training and awareness generation should be carried out in schools among teachers, parents and children.
- xvii.) States should take a well considered view about implementing a capital intensive mega water supply scheme for rural areas, as experience has shown that it requires total change in culture/ mindset and financially it is a very costly proposition. It has proved beyond doubt that in rural areas and villages, small schemes which can be operated and maintained by local community and does not cost much on O&M. Such schemes are always sustainable in the long run.

States should consider carefully as success of such schemes depends on various reform measures.

xviii.) A team from UP should visit Gujarat and Department/ UNICEF will coordinate the same. This programme should be organized in such a manner that both local community leaders as well as UP Jal Nigam/ State officials are able to see the functioning of large grid and in-village management.

14: Principal Secretary, RD, UP, assured the Secretary, DWS that he will look into the matter with a new perspective. He will personally ensure that he, as well as UP Jal Nigam officials, shall visit these areas and have meetings with local village communities and bring them together. He also assured that he will discuss with Mr. Saurabh Singh and similar other people of the area and seek their suggestions cooperation, in ensuring access to safe water to the people on long-term basis.

15. After the meeting, other issues relating to implementation of rural water supply programme were also reviewed. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

2009
Saurabh Singh

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th August, 2009 on mitigation of Arsenic contamination in drinking water in the State of Uttar Pradesh

1. Last year, Mr. Saurabh Singh, a Social Activist from Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh highlighted at different forum about problem faced by the people due to Arsenic contamination in drinking water in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, especially Ballia district. He stated that Arsenic problem in drinking water is on the rise and people are facing acute health problems but are not getting any help. The Government of India has sanctioned a number of water supply projects to address the Arsenic contamination, but there is hardly any progress on the ground. In this backdrop, a review meeting was convened on June 4th, 2008, which was chaired by the then Secretary, DWS. In the meeting, the then Principal Secretary, RD, Uttar Pradesh; MD, UP Jal Nigam; other State Government officials, Mr. Dara Johnston, WES Specialist, UNICEF and Mr. Saurabh Singh participated and various issues were discussed in detail.

2. Recently, during inter review, it was found that there is hardly any progress and action taken report on the decision taken in the last meeting has also not been received from the State Government. In view of this, a meeting was convened on 27.8.2009, which was chaired by the Secretary, DWS. In the meeting, following were present:

- i.) Shri A. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary, DoDWS
- ii.) Shri Shri Krishna, Principal Secretary, RD, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh,
- iii.) Mr. Dara Johnston, WES Specialist, UNICEF, New Delhi
- iv.) Shri Saurabh Singh, Social Activist, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh
- v.) Shri A. K. Srivastava, MD, UP Jal Nigam, Uttar Pradesh
- vi.) Shri R. K. Sinha, Director, DoDWS
- vii.) Shri Bharat Lal, Director, DoDWS

3. Secretary, DWS in his opening remarks gave the background of the meeting. At the outset, he said that under Bharat Nirman, addressal of Arsenic and Fluoride contamination has been given top priority and by now these problems should have been tackled. As per records, projects have been sanctioned by the Government of India under Revised Sub-mission on water quality and funds too have been released in 2006-07 and thereafter on regular basis. However, this Department is not aware of the progress made under these projects and on the ground people like Mr. Saurabh Singh are also holding the opinion that there is hardly any progress.

4. Secretary, DWS further said that timely implementation of water supply projects/ schemes and its commissioning are of critical importance. While preparing the scheme(s), appropriate technological options should be explored and adopted. As is understood, surface water-based water supply system might be a better option in the Arsenic affected areas. However, it's assured O&M and long-term sustainability should be taken into account before implementing any such scheme. Secretary, DWS categorically stated that there cannot be any compromise on involvement of local

Minutes of the meeting held in the Department of Drinking Water Supply on Arsenic contamination in drinking water in Uttar Pradesh

1. A meeting was held in the Committee Room of the Secretary, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India at Nirman Bhawan to discuss the reported Arsenic contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh with special reference to Balia district. The meeting was chaired by Secretary, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India and following were present:

- i.) Dr. J. N. Chamber, Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh
- ii.) Mr. A. Bhattacharya, Joint Secretary, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India
- iii.) Mr. A. K. Srivastava, Chief Engineer, UP Jal Nigam, Uttar Pradesh
- iv.) Mr. Dara Johnston, UNICEF, New Delhi
- v.) Mr. Saurabh Singh, Innervoice Foundation, District Balia, Uttar Pradesh
- vi.) Mr. R. N. Tripathi, Joint Director, UP Jal Nigam, Uttar Pradesh
- vii.) Mr. Bharat Lal, Director (DWS), Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India
- viii.) Mr. K. V. Mathew, Deputy Secretary (R&D), Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India

2. Secretary, DWS in her opening remarks mentioned about the background of the reasons for calling the meeting. She expressed her deep concern about reports received from various quarters about emerging Arsenic contamination in drinking water sources in Uttar Pradesh. She also mentioned that Mr. Saurabh Singh also met her as well as Dr. Kirit Parekh, Hon'ble Member (Water & Energy), Planning Commission and highlighted the issue. She said that using this opportunity, she would like to impress upon the State's officials present in the meeting to address the water quality problem in the remaining 1,639 quality-affected habitations of the State as per priority/ target fixed under Bharat Nirman-rural drinking water component. She asked the State's Principal Secretary, Rural Development to provide the details.

3. Principal Secretary, Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh said that in addition to Balia and Lakhimpur Kheri districts, Arsenic contamination is also reported from Bahraich district. In fact, problem is emerging in the Teari region. As is well know, Arsenic problem is geogenic and in the state, mostly it is found in 2nd and or 3rd strata. So far, in such areas water is made available through deep hand pumps and by piped water supply from deeper sources through deep tube wells. Now, it is realized that in the process, Arsenic contaminated strata get

punctured and it may not be very safe, though precaution is taken to seal the same. He opined that surface water source/ river could be the best option in such areas. He further opined that even transportation through long pipelines may also be an option. He stressed the need for social marketing to be carried out in such Arsenic affected areas and a focused awareness campaign needs to be started. He also said that treatment of affected people is also required.

4. Mr. Dara Johnston, Water & Sanitation Specialist from UNICEF, New Delhi said that UNICEF is working in close cooperation with UP Jal Nigam. After first case of Arsenic contaminated drinking water source having more than 50 ug/ litre Arsenic content, initially UNICEF provided hand pumps for drawing water from deeper aquifers. However, now it does not provide the hardware. UNICEF provides testing equipments/ testing kits, spectrophotometers, etc. to UP Jal Nigam and provides other support sought by the State.

5. Mr. R. N. Tripathi, Joint Director, UP Jal Nigam said that all habitations have been tested/ screened. Initially 250 hand pumps to draw potable water from deeper aquifers (Arsenic contamination having less than 10 ug / litre) were installed.

6. Shri Saurabh Singh said that he keeps on visiting Balia district on regular basis. During his visit, he has seen large number of people suffering due to consumption of Arsenic contaminated water. With limited resources/ support, he has taken many of them to BHU, Varanasi and AIIMS, New Delhi for treatment. However, it is highly inadequate and not a solution. He has tried to highlight the plight of people so that they get at least 'safe water' free from Arsenic contamination. He observed that there is no follow up and hardly any management of the problem in the affected villages/ areas by the UP Jal Nigam in Balia district. In rural areas, people are not aware about serious ill effects of consuming Arsenic contaminated water. The condition of district water testing laboratory is very bad. He is very alarmed and lack of mitigation efforts is quite disturbing: He observed that since UNICEF support hand pumps for drawing water from deeper aquifers have been installed by puncturing the affected strata, now private bores/ are being installed by doing the same, which is quite disturbing. This poses the greater risk to the people of the area.

7. Director (DWS) said that closure of all such hand pumps/ tube wells, which have confirmed Arsenic contamination beyond the permissible limit, should be taken up. Activities under National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance Programme (NRDWQM&SP) should be stepped up for better surveillance on such drinking water contamination. The water quality testing regime should be strengthened and people should be encouraged to get water tested. In the villages having Arsenic contamination, mitigation activities should

be stepped up so that it has impact on the people residing in the area, who can see that Government/ UP Jal Nigam is quite active in mitigating the problem. He also mentioned that GoI has released Rs. 47,68.80 lakh in 2006-07 and Rs. 53,09.00 lakh in 2007-08 under the Revised Sub-mission on water quality against which UP Jal Nigam has reported an expenditure of Rs. 47,68.79 lakh only. Similarly, against the 25% State share for these projects, expenditure is Rs. 542.35 lakh only. He said that there is a need to step up the implementation of these projects and a clear timeline should be fixed. The UP Jal Nigam should indicate the proposed completion date for better monitoring to ensure that people starts getting safe water. He suggested that in the project area, details of the project including its cost, no. of villages covered, name of scheme, source of funding, project period, implementing agency, relevant contact number/ address, etc. should be displayed at various public places. He requested the State to review the implementation of these projects and monitor the same. Once more than 75% expenditure out of the available fund is achieved, proposal for release of further funds may be send by the State.

8. Joint Secretary (DWS) said that UP Jal Nigam should expedite the implementation of ongoing Sub-mission projects and if there are more such villages having Arsenic contamination, they should be taken up first for the mitigation to provide safe water under the Revised Sub-Omission. The Department is willing to provide all possible assistance to State to tackle the problem on priority as Arsenic mitigation is the top priority under the Revised Sub-mission.

9. Secretary, DWS while summing up said that world over, Arsenic is found in a particular strata and also on the banks of some rivers. She also had the occasion to have detailed feedback from Arsenic Task Force constituted in West Bengal. She said that in case of Arsenic contamination, it is best to leave the Arsenic containing strata alone. It should not be punctured/ disturbed all. In such areas, surface water is the best source though it might have bacteriological contamination, which is quite easy to handle. The treatment of Arsenic contaminated water is a very huge affair and installation cost of the treatment plant, its O&M and sludge disposal are the serious problems. She said that State has to move towards surface water sources to meet the drinking water needs of people living in the affected areas. As a strategy, State should promote conjunctive use of water available from different sources viz. rooftop water, surface water and safe ground water. She observed that during her visit to Aarah district in Bihar, she saw some technically very good shallow wells for which, UNICEF has provided the technical support. Such structures could be considered in the affected areas. She also said that State has to launch intensive IEC campaign in rural areas so that people become aware of the problem. Secretary, DWS also observed that State should dovetail NREGA funds to created water bodies in each

village to improve the over water availability. Secretary, DWS observed that puncturing of the affected strata should be stopped as it poses greater danger of spread in the other strata also. Secretary, DWS said that funds made available to CCDU for IEC and HRD activities should be properly used to bring awareness among people of the State and funds made available under NRDWQM&S programme should be used for spreading awareness, training and carrying out regular testing of various drinking water sources by the community themselves.

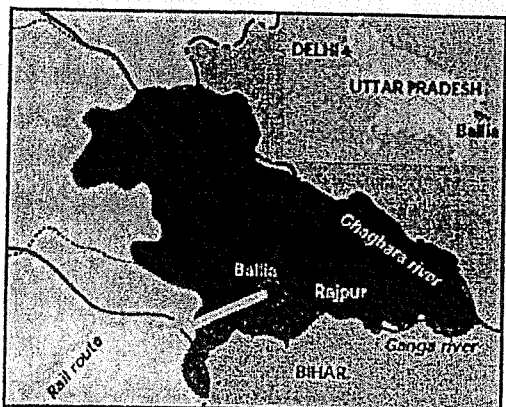
10. Secretary, DWS expressed hope that State Government will take immediate action as decided in the meeting and step up the whole ongoing mitigation efforts to bring it at a higher level so that people get immediate as well as permanent relief. She also expressed hope that UNICEF would revise its strategy and emphasis would be on conjunctive use of water, improving water testing regime and more awareness among people in the area. She asked all the concerned to keep the Department informed about various action taken in the matter. Secretary, DWS indicated that during her next visit to the State, she would like to again review the matter along with drinking water problem in Bundelkhand region and ongoing Total Sanitation Campaign in the State.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

DOWN TO EARTH

15, SEPTEMBER 2004

Exactly how widespread is the presence of poisonous arsenic in the groundwater that Indians drink? In Delhi, a doctor's phone call propels *Down To Earth* to visit Uttar Pradesh's Ballia district. 950 kilometres away from the country's capital, we found village after village affected, effectively re-drawing the country's arsenic contamination map. Exactly how concerned is the government about this insidious pandemic? In Delhi, institutions set up to guarantee safe water to India's citizens, or monitor its quality, brazenly pooh-poohed the problem away. 950 kilometres away, in Ballia town, state officials -- in arrogant tandem -- were equally in denial. RITU GUPTA walks the new arsenic trail:



-- Dinanath Singh has a cancerous wound on his left foot from which blood and pus continuously ooze. He has black and white spots (lesions) all over his body. The 61-year-old also suffers from skin cancer. Two fingers of his left hand had developed ulcers and had to be amputated. His ailments are many, but the cause is one: arsenic.

Dinanath lives in Ekawana Rajpur village of Ballia district, Uttar Pradesh. He came to the New Delhi-based All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in June 2004 for medical advice. While going through his papers, Neena Khanna, a professor in the dermatology department of AIIMS, and her colleague, Amit Malhotra, came across a startling bit of information. A blood report dated May 12, 2004, showed that Dinanath had 34.40 parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic, when the reference limit is a mere 1-4 ppb, as per leading toxicology manuals.

"The presence of such high levels of arsenic in blood can only be possible in case of chronic exposure," felt Khanna. She was particularly perturbed, as Dinanath belonged to Ballia, where arsenic contamination of groundwater was unknown. Worried, she called *Down To Earth*. She wanted to know what the possible cause could be of her patient's horrendous ailment. She, like us, had heard of arsenic in West Bengal and Bangladesh. "But he is from Ballia," she said. Why him? Where is this arsenic coming from?

We were also shocked. Maybe the source of contamination was industrial in nature, we thought. *Down To Earth* decided to check the story out with the doctor and her patient.

Now we wanted to know more. What about others in the village? After all, it could not only be affecting Dinanath's home. He also had a question for us: "Tell me if my well is poisoned. Tell me what I should tell my family?" *Down To Earth* decided to visit Ballia.

Dreadful sight

Ekawana Rajpur is about 16 kilometres from Ballia town, along the banks of the Ganga in the Belhari block of the district. It is situated away from the national highway. People here are farmers. The village has no roads, no electricity, no healthcare centre: poverty is evident. The Census 2001 says that this village has 1,800 people. When contacted, household after household had the same dreadful story to relate. All the 100-odd people contacted, many being above 35 years of age, had skin lesions (known as melanosis, the first stage of arsenicosis); in some, the skin of their palms and feet had become rough, dry and thickened (keratosis, the second stage) and a few suffered from breathlessness: doctors say this is the third stage of the disease; in addition to the outward signs, internal complications begin to occur (see box: What the poison does).

Visits to nearby villages -- Sughar Chapra, Tiwaritola, Gangapur and Choube Chapra -- showed the disease was well spread. In all these villages, there were people suffering from various stages of arsenicosis. In all these villages, something else was common. People depended on handpumps for drinking water, despite the river being at their doorstep. "Bringing water from the river is time-consuming. The handpumps are located in every corner of the village," explained Dinanath's wife, Basanti, who also has skin lesions. Nobody had told her that a walk to the river could make a difference between life and death.

It is precisely these handpumps -- bored to a depth between 27-36 metres below ground level -- that have introduced arsenic into their lives. "The handpumps were put in place in the early 1970s. After these were installed, we started noticing skin diseases. But nobody connected the two," said Ram Bhadr Singh, a 68-year-old resident of Rajpur diagnosed with skin cancer at the Vineet Skin Institute, Varanasi. "We have stopped counting the number of people who die. Now the river is changing course. It may kill us even before arsenic does," averred Kanti, his daughter-in-law.

Dinanath's own household is tragic proof of the arsenic menace. His two daughters -- Amita, aged 35 and Anju, aged 25 -- died in the past two years. Like Ashok, Arvind -- Dinanath's younger son -- has skin lesions.

Similarly, when *Down To Earth* spoke to R K Singh, the chief medical officer of Ballia district, he was quick to denounce the Jadavpur University's findings. "The report of the university is behind the commotion. But their report cannot be correct, because all its samples tested positive for arsenic, which is clearly not possible." His remarks only prove his ignorance, for the report found a wide variation in the samples checked. He was also not informed about the symptoms of arsenic poisoning.

For the administration, the situation was normal. When questioned by *Down To Earth* on July 28, 2004, district magistrate Vinod Kumar Malik declared: "There is no water contamination in my area." Malik went on to expound his theories: "The *katav* (river cutting) may destroy the villages, automatically solving the problem of arsenic. Moreover, in all probability this skin problem is due to parthenium -- a weed that plagues the entire district."

Murkier and murkier

Down To Earth is in possession of a letter dated July 31, 2004 -- soon after Malik was interviewed. It carries Malik's signature, and is addressed to the director, medicine and health, UP government, asking for a team to be sent to investigate the problem of skin cancer in the district. On August 13, 2004, the UP Jal Nigam, which had also adopted an ostrich-like attitude, wrote to the Jadavpur University, asking for a team to revisit the area to check the water again.

Clearly some wheels are beginning to turn.

We check for arsenic

But we had to be sure. We knew that the prevarication and denial game would continue. It is the favourite official pastime. Dinanath and his neighbours would be easily buried in the files of "lack of scientific evidence".

Down To Earth had already checked the laboratory procedures needed for collecting samples for analysis. Water samples from Dinanath's handpump, Ramsagar's handpump and Vishnu Gaur's handpump were collected. All these were people who were suffering from what was visibly arsenicosis. The fourth sample was from a handpump, believed to be "clean". We also collected nail and hair samples of people living in Tiwaritola, Choube Chapra and Rajpur villages. All these people had visible signs of the disease.

The results confirm what we already knew and the administration refuses to see.

Dinanath's handpump has 73 ppb of arsenic -- seven times higher than the permissible limit.

Ramsagar Singh, a 75-year old resident of Rajpur, is drinking water that has 47 ppb of arsenic. Because of the poisoning, he has ulcers in his mouth, which have killed the desire to eat. He has a cyst on his side, which may be cancerous. In 1988, he had a tumour-like growth on his thigh. With no access to even the most rudimentary medical facility, Ramsagar himself incised the abscess with a blade and put *chuna* on the wound. To date, it hasn't healed.

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Too late

When Down To Earth visited Vishnu Gaur's home in Tiwaritola he had said: "Please help me. If I die what will happen to my

children?"

His death on August 1, 2004, should be a wake up call for the authorities to act before it is too late.

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Vishnu Gaur is no longer with us. He died at the age of 42. He was drinking water that has arsenic levels as high as 129 ppb. He had a huge cancerous tumour on his throat. Being extremely poor, he could never visit a doctor.

The fourth handpump, at Tiwaritola, has a relatively low 15 ppb of arsenic.

Ram Bhadhur Singh of Rajpur has 6,310 ppb of arsenic in his hair. The so-called normal level for hair is believed to be between 80-250 ppb. Can the administration now relate his skin cancer to arsenic?

Janaki Devi, a 40-year-old resident of Choube Chapra, has 4,790 ppb of arsenic in her hair. She has skin lesions all over her body. Will the administration still continue to call this

parthenium poisoning?

Mukheshwar Singh Pande, a 27-year-old resident of Tiwaritola, has 2,480 ppb of arsenic in his nail. The "normal" range is 430-1,080 ppb. He is too young to die. But with this level in his body, doctors will tell you his death by cancer is probable.

Unless. Unless something is done to change this. Something is done to explain to people which of their handpumps is poisoned, which is safe.

But for this the government must first begin to accept that the arsenic problem goes beyond West Bengal. It must begin to map the extent, mark the handpumps, inform the people so that they can secure alternatives to toxic drinking water. It is a huge task. But it is not impossible.

Perhaps Dinanath's lonely journey to AIIMS will change all this. Perhaps.

पानी बर्बाद कर देंगे, पिलायेंगे नहीं

सड़क पर गिरकर बर्बाद हो रहा जल, नहीं मिल सकी आर्सेनिक से मुक्ति

हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

दलनछपरा

क्षेत्रीय लोगों को आर्सेनिक मुक्त शुद्ध जल की आपूर्ति कराने के उद्देश्य से अब से करीब दो साल पहले स्थानीय गांव में बनी पानी टंकी शां-पीस साबित हो रही है। टंकी से जलापूर्ति तो होती है लेकिन वह आम लोगों को नसीब नहीं हो पाती। जगह-जगह बने स्टैंड पोस्ट के टूटने व पाइप फट जाने के कारण एक ओर पानी बर्बाद हो रहा है, वहीं दूसरी ओर लोगों को शुद्ध पेयजल के लिए छिछियाना पड़ रहा है।

टूटी पाइपों से निकलकर पानी सड़कों पर फैल रहा है और ऐसे में पानी टंकी सुविधा देने की जगह लोगों के लिए परेशानी का सबब बन गयी है। ग्रामीणों का कहना है कि 'जल ही जीवन है' और 'जल की एक-एक बूंद अनमोल है' जैसे स्लोगन देने वाली सरकारों का एक महकमा जल निगम इससे एकदम बेपरवाह है। इसके खिलाफ ग्रामीणों में आक्रोश है और वे आंदोलन की तैयारी में हैं।

उल्लेखनीय है कि क्षेत्रीय लोगों को आर्सेनिक मुक्त पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने के लिए स्थानीय गांव में दो वर्ष पहले पूर्व मंत्री भरत सिंह व पूर्व सांसद वीरेंद्र सिंह मस्त ने उक्त पानी टंकी का शिलान्यास किया था। उसके तत्काल बाद ही करीब एक करोड़ रुपये की लागत से इस पानी टंकी का निर्माण भी हुआ। उसके बाद पाइप लाइन बिछाने का कार्य प्रारम्भ हुआ। सूत्रों की मानें तो इसी दौरान विभाग की मिलीभगत से ठेकेदारों ने खूब मूनमानी की और घटिया पाइप बिछा दिया गया।

उस दौरान स्थानीय गांव का निरीक्षण

करने आये तत्कालीन जिलाधिकारी सैथिल पांडेयन शी ने घटिया पाइप का नजारा अपने आंखों से देखा भी था। भड़के जिलाधिकारी ने अपने पैरों से ही कुछ पाइपों को फोड़ भी दिया था और घटिया पाइपों को उखाड़कर अच्छी क्वालिटी का पाइप बिछाने का निर्देश भी दिया था। हालांकि उनके जाने के बाद पुनः उसी पाइप को बिछाकर कार्य पूरा कर दिया गया।

इसका नतीजा यह है कि जगह-जगह पाइप फटता रहता है। इससे दर्जनों स्थानों पर पानी गिरकर भरने के कारण लोगों के लिए परेशानी का सबब बना हुआ है। खास बात यह है कि पानी टंकी से जल की आपूर्ति पाइप लाइनों व स्टैंड पोस्ट तक ही है। स्टैंड पोस्ट पर भी नलका की व्यवस्था नहीं होने से पानी बर्बाद होता रहता है।

उधर, विभागीय अधिकारियों की मानें तो पानी टंकी से स्टैंड पोस्ट तक ही पानी उपलब्ध कराने की व्यवस्था है। जगह-जगह स्टैंड पोस्ट बनाये गये हैं। लोगों को वही से पानी का पानी लेने का इंतजाम है।



पानी की बर्बादी

स्टैंड पोस्ट से ही पानी लेने की है व्यवस्था : विभाग

इसके लिए पोस्ट पर टोटिया भी लगायी गयी। हालांकि ग्रामीणों ने ही उसे या तो तोड़ दिया या गायब कर दिया।

स्थापित पानी टंकी से आपूर्ति अब तक नहीं

दलनछपरा। दो साल पहले स्थापित पानी टंकी से आपूर्ति अबतक नहीं होने के सवाल पर अवर अभियंता बडी प्रसाद ने बताया कि पानी टंकी पर फार्म उपलब्ध है। फार्म भरकर पांच सौ रुपये जमा करके कनेक्शन लिया जा सकता है। पाइप फटने के सवाल पर उन्होंने कहा कि हमें जानकारी नहीं है। उन्होंने सलाह भी दे डाली कि लिकेज है तो मिस्त्री से सम्पर्क कर बनवा लें। स्टैंड पोस्ट में श्रुष नलका नहीं लगने के सवाल पर उन्होंने कहा कि इसमें नलका नहीं लगता है।



शिकायतें बेअसर, अब करेंगे आंदोलन

डीएम के आदेश के बावजूद लगायी गयी घटिया पाइपें

हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

दलनछपरा

स्थानीय गांव निवासी रविन्द्र प्रसाद का कहना है कि पाइप लाइन बिछाने में भारी धांधली हुई है। इसका नतीजा यह है कि अनमोल जल बर्बाद हो रहा है। ग्रामीणों को मिलने वाला शुद्ध पेयजल अनावश्यक रूप से सड़कों पर बह रहा है।

विनोद यादव का कहना है कि आर्सेनिक मुक्त पेयजल जनता को कब मिलेगा इसका पता किसी को नहीं है। कितनी बार विभागीय कर्मचारियों से शिकायत की गयी लेकिन इस बर्बाद हो रहे जल के लिए कोई ठोस पहल नहीं की गयी। अब तो भोवण गर्म में ही बर्बाद है

इस टंकी का पानी यहां के लोगों को नसीब नहीं होगा। कहा कि हम लोग इससे उब चुके हैं और अब आंदोलन का रास्ता ही अख्तियार करना पड़ेगा।

मैनेजर सिंह का कहना है कि जितने भी स्टैंड पोस्ट लगे हैं उसमें आज तक नल की व्यवस्था नहीं हुई। इससे पानी बर्बाद हो रहा है। अभी तक कनेक्शन भी नहीं दिया गया लेकिन पाइपों में जलापूर्ति कर इसे बर्बाद किया जा रहा है। फटे पाइपों से जगह-जगह जल भराव के कारण परेशानी बना हुआ है। अधिवक्ता विनय पांडेय ने कहा कि सरकार जल संचय करने के लिए जगह-जगह तालाब का निर्माण करा रही है वहीं दूसरी ओर यहां जिलाधिकारी के आदेश का खुल्लेआम उल्लंघन करके घटिया पाइप को बिछाया गया। इसकी उच्च स्तरीय जांच कराकर दोषियों पर कार्रवाई होनी चाहिए।

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दावा में पेयजल समस्या गहरायी

Jun 18, 07:06 pm

बैरिया (बलिया) : क्षेत्र के बैरिया, मुस्लीमपुरा व देवती ब्लाकों में भीषण गर्मी व तपिश के कारण भूजल स्तर घिसकने से पेयजल समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है। पानी के अभाव में जहां शान्तिचलों का जन्म जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया है वहीं शुद्ध पेयजल की किल्लत से लोगों के समक्ष गम्भीर संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है। दूसरी तरफ पेयजल हेतु लगाए गए इंडिया मार्कड हंडपम्पों की 80 प्रतिशत खराबी ने पेयजल समस्या को विषम बना दिया है। क्षेत्र के सैकड़ों इंडिया मार्कड हंडपम्प रिबोर के इंतजार में पेयजल हेतु बेकार सिद्ध होने लगे हैं।

बता दें कि कुएं व जलाशयों की तरफ शासन या स्थानीय स्तर से संरक्षण नहीं होने से जल के पारम्परिक स्रोतों पर पहले से ही गहण लगा हुआ है। डीप बोरिंग योजनांतर्गत चयनित केन्द्रों पर हंडपम्प आज तक नहीं लग सके। वहीं लाल निशान लगे हंडपम्पों के जल सेवन के मनाही के बावजूद डीप बोरिंग नहीं होने से जहर युक्त जल मजबूरी में पीना पड़ रहा है। प्रदूषित जल के सेवन से मनुष्यों का जीवन खतरे में पड़ गया है। इस तरह के पेयजल के सेवन से क्षेत्र के अधिकतर गांवों में आर्सेनिकोसिस व पेट संबंधी रोगियों की संख्या बढ़ने लगी है।

शासन स्तर से व समाजसेवी संगठनों द्वारा जांचोपरांत जल में आर्सेनिक व आयरन मानक से अधिक मात्रा मिलने की पुष्टि होने के बावजूद शुद्ध पेयजल का विकल्प क्षेत्रवासियों को आज तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सका।

ईमेल करें मंतनर के टाग भेजें टिप संकल्प

सेब को दर्ज दें (0) कर का भुगतान

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अन्य अराजक तत्वों का अड़डा बना जिला अस्पताल प्रेमी के लिए पति को सरेआम पीटा फायदेमंद होता खेती में जिप्सम का प्रयोग तीन दिन के अंदर ही हसालावती वी गिरफ्तारी दो दिन चंद रहेगा भारी चाहतों का आवागमन तरस्की को द्विफसली, बहुफलही खेती की ओर लौंअग्रसर ट्रैसकांसेर जला पूरा गांव अंधेरे में महिलाओं के प्रति ऐसा अपराध कभी नहीं हुआ

वॉचमैन, सभ के साथ नहीं बदली तकदीर अपनी भावनाओं को बैनवास पर दे रहे अंतिम रूप

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उपर वदेस

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Ranveer Singh

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आर्सेनिक मुक्त जल को पानी टंकी का निर्माण शुरू

Jun 18, 07:00 pm



बनिया (बनिया): आर्सेनिक से जुझ रहे दोगा बसियों को स्वच्छ पेयजल सुलभ कराने के लिए क्षेत्र के मान सिंह छपरा (अचलगढ़) में पानी टंकी का निर्माण कार्य शनिवार को विधिवत पूजन-अर्पण के साथ शुरू हो गया। इस पानी टंकी को दिसम्बर तक तैयार करने का लक्ष्य भी निर्धारित किया गया है।

बता दें कि क्षेत्र के दर्जनों गांवों में आर्सेनिकयुक्त पेयजल का सेवन करने के कारण अग्र तक दर्जनों लोग काल के गाल में समा चुके हैं। इसके फलस्वरूप मान सिंह छपरा

ग्राम पंचायत के प्रधान प्रतिनिधि नित्येन्द्र नाथ मिश्र (प्रेमजी) के अथक प्रयास से गांव के लोगों को आर्सेनिकमुक्त पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने के लिए पानी टंकी निर्माण कार्य का शुभारम्भ किया गया। इसे लगभग दिसम्बर तक बन कर तैयार करने का भी प्रस्ताव है। इस पानी टंकी से लगभग चार हजार लोगों को स्वच्छ पेयजल मिल सकेगा। इस अवसर पर नित्येन्द्र नाथ मिश्र के साथ पानी टंकी के निर्माण कार्य में लगे कर्मचारी मोहम्मद मेराज अहमद, पप्पू सिंह, बृजराज सिंह, के अलावा अंजली मिश्र, पूजकिशोर साहनी, राजकुमार, रामजी सहित दर्जनों लोग मौजूद रहे।

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Jun 13, 09:26 pm



बलिया (बलिया): लागत एक करोड़ और पेयजल एक बूंद भी नहीं। यह हाल है मुरली छपरा ब्लॉक के इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर उपखण्ड गाम पंचायत अंतर्गत टोला शिवन राय गांव के पूरब बनी पानी टंकी का। लगभग पांच वर्ष पूर्व निर्माण कार्य पूरा हो चुका था। इस पानी टंकी को चलाने के लिए टयूबवेल चालू किया गया तो झरने की तरह पानी टंकी से टपकने लगा और तब से यह पानी टंकी बंद पड़ी है जबकि बिजली के कनेक्शन सहित उसके सभी निर्माण कार्य हुए काफी दिन हो चुके हैं।

शामोणी का कहना है कि तत्कालीन प्रधान राजदेव सिंह के कार्यकाल में लगभग एक करोड़ रुपये की लागत से यह पानी टंकी बनी थी जिससे पानी टपकने के कारण शामोणी को शुद्ध जल पीने की उम्मीद पर पानी फिर गया। इस संदर्भ में जल निगम के कर्मचारियों से जब जागरण ने जानना चाहा कि क्यों पानी टंकी अभी तक चालू नहीं हुई, किस इंजीनियर की देखरेख में यह पानी टंकी बनी थी तो इस संदर्भ में जल निगम के किसी अधिकारी ने मुंह नहीं खोला। इधर नव निर्वाचित गाम प्रधान बिनोद सिंह का कहना है कि यह पानी टंकी आज से लगभग छह वर्ष पहले बनकर तैयार हुई थी। इसलिए इस संदर्भ में मैं कुछ बताने नहीं पाऊंगा किन्तु कैसे यह पानी टंकी चालू हो, इसके लिए मैं शोध अधिकारियों से मिलूंगा। शामोणी ने आर्सेनिक मुक्त पेयजल के लिए इस बंद पड़ी पानी टंकी को शोध ठीक कराने की अपील उठाई है।

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- तीन दिन के अंदर ही हमलाचारी की गिरफ्तारी
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- ट्रांसफार्मर जला पूरा गांव अंधेरे में
- महिलाओं के प्रति ऐसा अपराध कभी नहीं हुआ
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संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ के विकास कार्यक्रम के तहत भारत सरकार ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पानी की आपूर्ति को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कई योजनाएँ शुरू की हैं। इन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में नहरों, कुओं और छतों के माध्यम से पानी की आपूर्ति की जा रही है।

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1 message

saurabh singh <innervoicefoundation@gmail.com>

Fri, May 13, 2011 at 5:34 PM

To: saurabh singh <innervoicefoundation@gmail.com>

मीठा जहर पी रही हजारों की आबादी May 06, 08:32 pm बतारं
Twitter Delicious Facebook बैरिया (बलिया), निप्र: सरकार का यह दावा कि प्रदेश के सभी लोगों को स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा, कम से कम इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को मुंह ही चिढ़ा रहा है। कारण कि करीब 246 गांवों के लोग वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था के अभाव में 'मीठे जहर' के रूप में आर्सेनिक युक्त पानी पीने को मजबूर है। इससे निजात दिलाने के लिए जैसे तो कई योजनाएं सरकार द्वारा अस्तित्व में लायी गईं लेकिन उनमें से एक भी धरातल पर मूर्त रूप नहीं ले सकी। यहां तक कि डीप बोरिंग वाले हैडपम्प भी कतई सुरक्षित नहीं रह गए हैं। उनके पानी में भी आर्सेनिक की मात्रा काफी अधिक है।

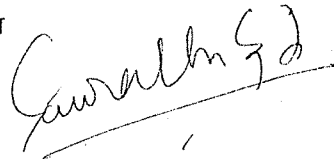
बता दें कि क्षेत्र के कुल 246 गांवों को आर्सेनिक प्रभावित चिह्नित किये गया है। इन गांवों में यूनीसेफ व केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा आर्सेनिक से बचाव के लिए विभिन्न योजनाएं शुरू की गयी हैं लेकिन उनका लाभ यहां के लोगों को जरा सा भी नहीं मिल रहा है। इन गांवों में आर्सेनिक युक्त जल का सेवन करने से अब तक करीब सात दर्जन से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। चौबे छपरा, बलियार, रामगढ़, तिवारी टोला, सुघर छपरा, राजपुर, एकोना, रेपुरा आदि गांव इससे सर्वाधिक प्रभावित हैं। तत्कालीन जिलाधिकारी वीके मलिक ने छ: मार्च 2005 में अपने कैम्प कार्यालय में कहा था कि आर्सेनिक प्रभावित सभी 246 गांवों में शासन की ओर से डीप बोरिंग कराई जाएगी और यूनीसेफ अपनी ओर से फिल्टर उपलब्ध कराएगा। डीप बोरिंग भी हुई पर इसका लाभ किसी को नहीं मिला। इस बीच सरकारी व गैर सरकारी तथा विदेशी जांच एजेंसियों ने इंडिया मार्को टू हैडपम्पों को भी अयोग्य ठहरा दिया जिसके कारण आनन-फानन में स्वास्थ्य विभाग व जल निगम द्वारा इन हैडपम्पों पर लाल रंग से 'नो सेफ' लिख दिया गया। आज भी लोग इन्हीं हैडपम्पों से अपनी प्यास बुझा रहे हैं। इसके चलते सैकड़ों लोग आर्सेनिक जनित बीमारियों से जूझ रहे हैं।

तीन करोड़ से अधिक अब तक हो चुका खर्च

जल निगम व केन्द्रीय जल बोर्ड के सूत्रों की मानें तो अब तक उनकी असफल योजनाओं पर करीब तीन करोड़ रुपये से अधिक खर्च हो चुके हैं। सबसे विडम्बना यह है कि प्रभावित व शुद्ध जल को कौन कहे, प्रदेश के चिकित्सा व स्वास्थ्य महानिदेशक द्वारा जिले को मुफ्त में चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने का दिशा निर्देश भी अब तक लागू नहीं हो पाया है।

व्यवस्था में सुधार के हो रहे प्रयास: एडीएम

अपर जिलाधिकारी एके द्विवेदी ने कहा कि व्यवस्था में सुधार के लिए प्रयास जारी है। इसके लिए व्यापक इंतजामात किये जा रहे हैं।



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बलिया (बलिया), निम्न सरकार का यह दावा कि प्रदेश के सभी लोगों को स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराया जायेगा, कम से कम इस क्षेत्र के लोगों को मुंह ही चिड़ा रहा है। कारण कि करीब 246 गांवों के लोग वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था के अभाव में ग्रीठे जहर के रूप में आर्सेनिक युक्त पानी पीने को मजबूर हैं। इससे निजामत दिलाने के लिए वैसे तो कई योजनाएं सरकार द्वारा अस्तित्व में लायी गईं लेकिन उनमें से एक भी पुरातन पर मृत रूप नहीं ले सकी। यहां तक कि डीप बोरिंग वाले हैंडपम्प भी क्लॉड सुरक्षित नहीं रह गए हैं। उनके पानी में भी आर्सेनिक की मात्रा काफी अधिक है।

बता दें कि क्षेत्र के कुल 246 गांवों को आर्सेनिक प्रभावित चिह्नित किये गया है। इन गांवों में यूनीसेफ व केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा आर्सेनिक से बचाव के लिए विभिन्न योजनाएं शुरू की गयी हैं लेकिन उनका लाभ यहां के लोगों को जरा सा भी नहीं मिल रहा है। इन गांवों में आर्सेनिक युक्त जल का सेवन करने से अब तक करीब सात दर्जन से अधिक लोगों की मौत हो चुकी है। चौबे छपरा, बलिया, रामगढ़, तिवारी टोला, सुपर छपरा, राजपुर, एकौना, रैपुरा आदि गांव इससे सर्वाधिक प्रभावित हैं। तत्कालीन जिलाधिकारी वीके मलिक ने छ. माघ 2005 में अपने कैम्प कार्यालय में कहा था कि आर्सेनिक प्रभावित सभी 246 गांवों में शासन की ओर से डीप बोरिंग कराई जाएगी और यूनिसेफ अपनी ओर से फिल्टर उपलब्ध कराएगा। डीप बोरिंग भी हुई पर इसका लाभ किसी को नहीं मिला। इस बीच सरकारी व गैर सरकारी तथा विदेशी जांच एजेंसियों ने इंडिया माफो टू हैंडपम्पों को भी अन्याय्य ठहरा दिया जिसके कारण आवन-फावन में स्वास्थ्य विभाग व जल निगम द्वारा इन हैंडपम्पों पर ताल रंग से 'नो टोक लिख दिया गया। आज भी लोग इन्हीं हैंडपम्पों से अपनी प्यास बुझा रहे हैं। इसके चलते सैकड़ों लोग आर्सेनिक जनित बीमारियों से जूझ रहे हैं।

तीन करोड़ से अधिक अब तक हो चुका खर्च

जल निगम व केन्द्रीय जल बोर्ड के सूत्रों की मानें तो अब तक उनकी असफल योजनाओं पर करीब तीन करोड़ रुपये से अधिक खर्च हो चुके हैं। सबसे विडम्बना यह है कि प्रभावित व शुद्ध जल को कौन कहे, प्रदेश के चिकित्सा व स्वास्थ्य महानिदेशक द्वारा जिले को मुफ्त में चिकित्सा सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने का दिशा निर्देश भी अब तक लागू नहीं हो पाया है।

व्यवस्था में सुधार के हो रहे प्रयास एडीएम

अपर जिलाधिकारी एफे दिवेदी ने कहा कि व्यवस्था में सुधार के लिए प्रयास जारी हैं। इसके लिए व्यापक इंजागमंत किये जा रहे हैं।

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जहरीला होता जल

जीवन जल में ही पैदा हुआ, फला-फूला। नदियों के किनारे अनेक सभ्यताएं बनती-बिगड़ती रही। सभ्यता के उत्कर्ष की ओर बढ़ रहे समाज ने प्रकृति के नियमों को तोड़ना शुरू कर दिया। नतीजा कभी हड़प्पा और मोहनजोदड़ो की शकल में आया तो कभी अरब के रेगिस्तान की शकल में। आज वह ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के रूप में सामने आ रहा है। कितने अचरज की बात है कि आज खाड़ी के अधिकांश देशों में पेट्रोल सस्ता और पानी महंगा है। आज पानी की समस्या विकसाल रूप धारण करती जा रही है। कहते हैं कि अगला विश्वयुद्ध पानी के लिए लड़ा जाएगा। यह नौवत इस तथ्य के बावजूद सामने खड़ी है कि धरती का तीन-चौथाई हिस्सा पानी से घिरा है। कितनी विडम्बना है कि पानी और मौदाकरी का देश भारत भी प्यासा है। भारत का कोई ऐसा अंचल नहीं है, जहां पेयजल की समस्या नहीं। महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ में लगातार दो साल से अकाल पड़ने से अधिकतर जल स्रोत सूख गए हैं।

पानी में अत्यधिक आसैनिक होने से उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल में अत्यंत खतरनाक स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। भारतीय स्टैंडर्ड ब्यूरो के मुताबिक पीने के पानी में आसैनिक की मात्रा प्रतिलीटर 50 माइक्रोग्राम (विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के मुताबिक 10 माइक्रोग्राम प्रतिलीटर) हो तो उसका सेवन किया जा सकता है, लेकिन इससे ज्यादा मात्रा जानलेवा साधित हो सकती है। आसैनिक जनित रोगों खासकर कैंसर से उक्त चार प्रदेशों में पिछले एक दशक के दौरान 200 से ज्यादा लोगों की मौत हो गई जबकि एक लाख से ज्यादा लोग असाध्य चर्म रोगों से पीड़ित हैं। कोलकाता के वैज्ञानिकों व चिकित्सकों ने उत्तर प्रदेश के तीन जिलों - वाराणसी, गाजीपुर और खलिया के 11 गांवों के 4780 ट्यूबवेलों के पानी में आसैनिक की मात्रा 300 से 3192 माइक्रोग्राम प्रतिलीटर तक पाई। इन जिलों में 50 हजार लोग आसैनिक युक्त पानी पीने को अभिशप्त हैं। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के बलिया के बलहरी ब्लॉक में 1997 से अब तक आसैनिक जनित रोगों की चपेट में आकर 69 लोगों की मौत हुई है। कोलकाता के विशेषज्ञों की टीम ने बिहार के 12 जिलों के पेयजल में आसैनिक की अत्यधिक मात्रा पाई है। ये जिले हैं- भाोजपुर, बक्सर, पटना, समस्तीपुर, भागलपुर, कटिहार, मुंगेर, वैशाली, खगड़िया, बेगूसराय, छपरा और लखीसराय। झारखंड में 10 हजार



और बिहार में दो लाख लोग आसैनिक से पीड़ित हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल की तो आधी आबादी ही आसैनिक से प्रभावित है। राज्य के 19 में से 10 जिले आसैनिक की समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं। ये जिले हैं - मुर्शिदाबाद,

मालदा, नेदिया, उत्तर व दक्षिण 24 परगना, बर्दवान, हावड़ा, हुगली और कोलकाता। इन जिलों की अधिकांश आबादी को जो पानी उपलब्ध है, उसमें आसैनिक की मात्रा 300 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति लीटर से ज्यादा है। बंगाल को पांच करोड़ की आबादी आसैनिक की चपेट में है। पश्चिम बंगाल, बिहार, झारखंड और उत्तर प्रदेश के हजारों लोग अत्यधिक आसैनिक युक्त पानी पीने के कारण रक्त कैंसर या सांस की तकलीफ से पीड़ित हैं। हजारों लोगों के भांस पिंडों में उभार, हथेली व अन्य हिस्सों में फफाल पड़ गए हैं। उंगलियां टेढ़ी हो गई हैं। शरीर के कई हिस्सों में सफेद दाग हो गया है। कोलकाता के विशेषज्ञों और चिकित्सकों ने निकट अतीत में बार-बार इन राज्यों की सरकारों और केंद्र सरकार की सुझाव दिए कि हर आसैनिक प्रभावित अंचल में प्रयोगशाला और जांच शिविर खोला जाए, ताकि पानी के साथ ही लोगों के नाखून, मल-मूत्र आदि की जांच कर आसैनिक कैंसर का पता लगाया जा सके। इसके अलावा आसैनिक के बारे में दूसरे देशों के निष्कर्षों, शोधों और तथ्यों का आदान-प्रदान किया जाए, मिट्टी के नीचे भू-तात्विक स्थिति का मानचित्र बनाया जाए, आसैनिक प्रभावित-इलाकों में आसैनिक मुक्त पानी की आपूर्ति के लिए नदियां, जलाशयों और कुओं के पानी को परिशोधित किया जाए। दुख की बात है कि विशेषज्ञों की इन सलाहों पर सरकारों ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया।

देश के इन चार प्रदेशों में पीने के पानी जैसी जीवनदायिनी वस्तु के जानलेवा भूमिका में अवतरित हो चुकने के बावजूद यह समस्या राष्ट्रीय चिंता का अंग नहीं बन पाई है। यह भी खतरा है कि अभी जो हैडपाइप, तालाब, पोखरे और कुएं आसैनिक के जहर से अप्रभावित हैं, भविष्य में कहीं उनमें भी यह जहर फैल तो नहीं जाएगा? प्रश्न है कि शासन इस समस्या का भू-तात्विक और भू-जल भित्तिक समाधान क्यों नहीं खोज रहा है? शासन-प्रशासन क्यों निष्क्रिय बना हुआ है? उसकी निष्क्रियता का ही नतीजा है कि विभिन्न हिस्सों में दूषित पानी से होने वाली मौतों का सिलसिला अनवरत जारी है।

(लेखक स्वतंत्र टिप्पणीकार हैं)

Damir Jagan
2009

ग्रामीणों की पेयजल परियोजनाओं में भ्रष्टाचार की हद

नई दिल्ली: सुदेश प्रसाद सिंह, उत्तर प्रदेश की पेयजल परियोजनाओं में भ्रष्टाचार और घपलों को लेकर नियंत्रक महलेश्वरी परीक्षक (सीएजी) ने गंभीर आपत्ति जताई है। उसकी रिपोर्ट में कुछ ऐसी ही परियोजनाओं का विस्तृत जिक्र किया गया है, जिनमें करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करने के बाद उन्हें लगे से अक्षय छोड़ दिया गया है। इस तरह के भ्रष्टाचार में कुछ गैर सरकारी संगठनों की साक्षरता और उनके खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई की शिकायतों को दरकिनार करने पर सीएजी ने नाराजगी जताई है।

वर्ष 2006-07 के दौरान गहरी खुदाई वाले 31 ग्रामीणों की परियोजना में पांच उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम की थीं और बाकी केंद्रीय मदद से पूरी

करोड़ों खर्च के बाद भी सुरक्षित पेयजल आपूर्ति का सपना नहीं हुआ पूरा

होनी थी। लेकिन इन्हें पूरा नहीं किया जा सका। इसी तरह कुछ अन्य परियोजनाओं पर 55 करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने के बाद भी उन्हें बीच में ही छोड़ दिया गया, जिनकी सुध पिछले 13 सालों से नहीं ली गई। सीएजी की रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक उत्तर प्रदेश के 616 गांवों में 1994-2001 के दौरान शुरू की गई 54 परियोजनाओं में से 21 परियोजनाएं अब भी अक्षय हैं। जबकि इन परियोजनाओं पर 32 करोड़ रुपये व्यय किए जा चुके हैं। इस धांधली व

लापरवाही से लगभग दो लाख की आबादी को स्वच्छ जल पिलाने का सपना ही रह गया है। बाकी जितनी परियोजनाओं को 41 करोड़ रुपये की लागत से पूरा किया गया, उनमें से आठ बंद हैं।

इतना ही नहीं 23 अन्य परियोजनाएं विभिन्न कारणों से पूरी क्षमता से कभी नहीं चलीं। कुछ ऐसी ही हालात मध्य प्रदेश के हैं, जहां बालाघाट जिले के 14 फ्लोरिड प्रभावित गांवों के लिए स्वच्छ पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने के उद्देश्य से चार करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाली परियोजना आज भी अधर में है। सीसा और नाइट्रेट की अधिकता वाले बरेली के पांच गांवों में 1.17 करोड़ की परियोजना कागजों से जमीन पर ही नहीं उतरी।

2009/Jafar

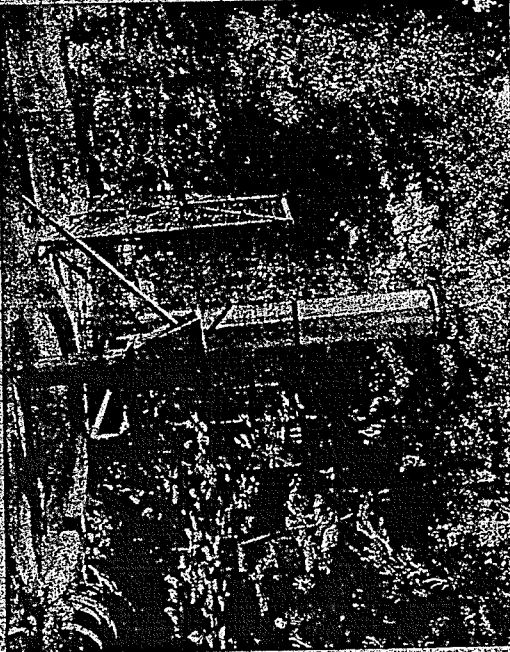
ज्यदा में सैकड़ों सभा चुके हैं मौल के मुंह में

उदासीनता

निदान के लिए अपेक्षित प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था का सदाशा अभाव

बैरिया (बलिया) में तो सारा जनपद आरसेनिक की समस्या से ग्रस्त है लेकिन क्षेत्र पंचायत बलिया की समस्या विशेष रूप से भयावह है। इस क्षेत्र का कोई ऐसा गांव व पुरवा नहीं जहां देश-विदेश की मानद संस्थाओं द्वारा जलनिगम व न नैसेफ के सहयोग से को गयी जाच में भर्ग जल से मानक से अधिक आरसेनिक न मिला हो। बैरियापुर, झरसा, के अथास व इसी गांव को सघन कर इस क्षेत्र के ज्यदा व सदावत विभिन्न गांवों की चपेट में आजाये हैं। अतः तक सैकड़ों लोगों की मौत, असमय रोज़वकी है।

नक लया भूखत जल के सघन में प्रदूषित बाधाओं से ग्रस्त है। प्रखर एवं समुदायक व्यवस्था के न संप्रति को प्रभावी बना लेना इस क्षेत्र की विभिन्न गांव में लोगों को स्वास्थ्य खोने का प्रयास किया गया है। 100 पेट्रोलियम बल्बों का प्रयोग किया गया है। इनके द्वारा जल में अरसेनिक के स्तर को जांच करवाया जा रहा है। प्रखर के अथास व इसी गांव को सघन कर इस क्षेत्र के ज्यदा व सदावत विभिन्न गांवों की चपेट में आजाये हैं। अतः तक सैकड़ों लोगों की मौत, असमय रोज़वकी है।



बैरिया में आरसेनिक संचालित दिवान के लिए लगाया फुल्टर।

निकलसक डा जेपी शुक्ल बतते हैं कि दारा क्षेत्र की प्रत्येक ग्राम पंचायतों में अगर आम जन के स्वास्थ्य को जांच की जाय तो कई जोकाने वाले तथ्य सामने आ सकते हैं। पोलिया, हेपेटाइटिस की तीव्र, निकडनी, टीबी, कैसर, डायरिया, कालज्वर के अनेक रोगी इन गांवों में मिल जायेंगे। नूनीसेफ की हालिया रिपोर्ट ने स्वका चुलासा कर दिया है कि इन रोगों के मूल में आरसेनिक युक्त जल का सेवन ही है।

निजरा दिलाने हेतु कई योजनाओं पर चल रहा काम जल निगम के अधिपत्या अधीन अशोक कुमार अरसेनिक का जेठना है कि आरसेनिक से 310 बरिसया ज्यदा ही प्रभावित है। जलहरी बैरिया, सुरलोडपरा व रेवती क्षेत्र में समुदाय जलहद गम्भीर है। यहां भूजल में मानक से कहीं अधिक आरसेनिक मिला है। ऐसे में इन क्षेत्रों में डीप बोअर वाले फुडपम्प लगाने जा रहे हैं। इस क्रम में 498 हेक्टर पर 103 बरिसियों में लगाये गये हैं। कुछ बरिसियों में फिल्टर भी लगाये गये हैं। बास बरिसियों में आठ नयी योजनाओं पर काम चल रहा है।

Smruti Singh



शुक्रवार 29 नवंबर 2010 वाणराज्य

हिन्दुस्तान 3

हाल हफ्ते भर का

बारिश के कारण अधिकतम और न्यूनतम तापमान में कमी आई। अभी ठंड बने रहने की उम्मीद है।



428.48° अधिकतम

17.0° न्यूनतम

आज का तापमान 22.65°

आर्सेनिक ने ली एक और जान

हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

रामगढ़

जिले में आर्सेनिक युक्त जल का कहर अब भी थमा नहीं है। आर्सेनिक जनित रोगों से जूझ रहे एक अन्य व्यक्ति की शिविवार को मौत हो गयी। इसके पहले भी आर्सेनिक का जहर पांच दर्जन से अधिक लोगों की जान ले चुका है। विभिन्न गांवों में सैकड़ों लोग अब भी आर्सेनिक से जूझ रहे हैं, जिसमें गरीबों की संख्या अधिक है। गरीबी के चलते उनका माकूल उपचार नहीं हो पा रहा है।

जिले में आर्सेनिक की समस्या करीब सात साल पहले सामने आयी थी। विभिन्न संस्थाओं ने जल की जांच की और पाया कि यहाँ का जल पीने योग्य नहीं है। बावजूद इसके लोग उसी जल का सेवन करने को विवश हैं और नतीजतन विभिन्न बीमारियों की तपट में आते रहे हैं। शिविवारी टोला में करीब डेढ़ दर्जन लोग इसके शिकार हो चुके हैं। यहाँ

आपी एम्स की जांच टीम ने इन मौतों की पीछे करतूत हए इसके कारण आर्सेनिक का ही बताया था। शिविवार को गांव के केशव शास्त्री (42) ने भी दम तोड़ दिया। वे आर्सेनिक जनित बीमारी से कई सालों से पीड़ित थे। पिछले छह महीने से उनकी स्थिति अधिक गंभीर हो गयी थी। उनका उपचार स्थानीय स्तर पर चल रहा था।

जिले के करीब 310 गांवों में फैली आर्सेनिक की समस्या से लोग परेशान हैं। वैसे तो पूरे इलाके में लोग इस अभिशाप समस्या से जूझ रहे हैं लेकिन बेलहरी ब्लॉक के शिविवारी टोला गांव में आर्सेनिक की मात्रा आसपास के गांवों की अपेक्षा अधिक है। शासन की ओर से प्रभावित सभी 310 गांवों के लिए वाटर रिमूवल प्लांट लगाये गये हैं। हालांकि उसका लाभ लोगों को नहीं मिल पा रहा है। आर्सेनिक से सर्वाधिक प्रभावित बैरिया ब्लॉक के कहरपुर तथा बेलहरी ब्लॉक के गंगामुर्त तथा राजपुर एकोना में ओवरहेड टैंक

60 से ज्यादा मौतें

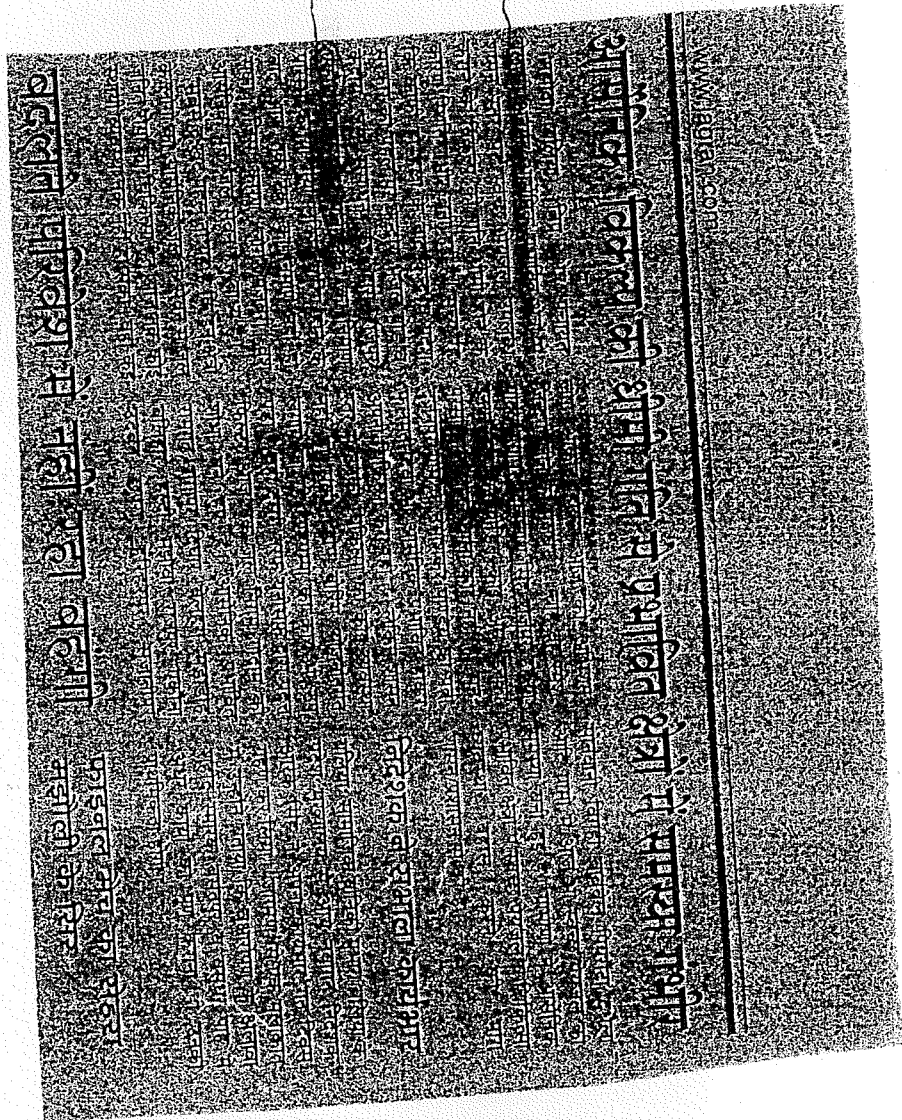
छह माह से बीमार था केशव

बनासो खतरा है लेकिन या तो वे जान नहीं हारते और यदि चालू है भी तो वे सम्पत्ति पानी नहीं दे रहे हैं।

ग्राम प्रधान जाहिर हुसैन की माने तो केशव को टीबी व दमा की बीमारी थी। गांव में अनेकों लोगों अमी भी पेट, आंत, उदर, चर्मरोग, पीलिया आदि से सम्बंधित बीमारियों से पीड़ित हैं। स्वास्थ्य महानिदेशक की टीम ने गांव के लोगों को आर्सेनिक जनित बीमारियों से पीड़ित बताया था। उन्होंने गांव में विकल्सक तैनात करने व पीड़ितों को जिला अस्पताल में भर्ती कर 40 दिन होएयओ कपरेल इंजेक्शन लगाने का निर्देश भी दिया था। उस समय गांव में दर्जनी बीमार थे, इनमें केशव भी था। एक अन्य पीड़ित विसुन गौड़ की मौत भी कुछ महीने पहले हुई थी।

Rangash

Gangash



Santosh B

आर्थिक : जिस्म वी तथा बाल, पत्थर भी हो जाते हैं लाल

• नगरी के बाद भी दुपट्टे पर
का पानी पीना बनी गजबूरी
• बलिया में धारक को बलिया के
• लाल की लाल

नगर के बलिया के लाल को बलिया
नगरी के लाल को बलिया के लाल को
नगरी के लाल को बलिया के लाल को
नगरी के लाल को बलिया के लाल को

नगरी के लाल को बलिया के लाल को
नगरी के लाल को बलिया के लाल को
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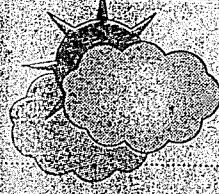
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भोजन में आर्थिक की मौजूदगी

Smriti



जिले के 310 आर्सेनिक प्रभावित गांवों में साफ पानी मिलेगा

प्रभावित गांवों में लगेंगे और 58 रिमूवल प्लांट

*Arsenic works
in Balha*

रामगढ़ | हिन्दुस्तान संवाद

नदी के प्रवाह को रोककर भले ही बिजली को उत्पादन किया जा रहा हो लेकिन यहाँ गंगा पार के गांवों के लिए बिजली में नदी ही रोड़ा बन गयी है। विद्वम्बना यह कि बिजली के अभाव में उक्त गांवों को शुद्ध पेयजल उपलब्ध करने की योजना को भी झटका लगा है। गांवों में पानी टंकी की स्थापना के प्रस्ताव को बिजली के अभाव में विभाग को वापस लेना पड़ा है। हालांकि विभाग वैकल्पिक इंतजाम में लगा है। अब इन गांवों में ओवरहेड टैंक की जगह 'डीप बोरिंग' वाले हैंडपम्प तथा आर्सेनिक रिमूवल प्लांट लगाने की योजना है।

जिले के आर्सेनिक प्रभावित 310 गांवों में गंगा पार के गांव बैरिया ब्लाक का नौरंगा व दुबहड़ ब्लाक का शिवपुर दियर मम्बरी (भाऊ सिंह का डेरा) शामिल है। प्रभावित गांवों में पाइप पेयजल योजना के तहत पानी टंकियों का

झटका

- बिजली के अभाव में पानी टंकी का प्रयोग समाप्त
- पानी टंकी वाली लोगों की पी पी हैडपम्प

बिजली के अभाव में नौरंगा शिवपुर दियर मम्बरी में लगे ओवरहेड टैंक का प्रस्ताव वापस लिया गया है। इन गांवों में अब डीप बोरिंग हैंडपम्प लगाये जायेंगे। इससे प्रक्रिया शुरू हो गयी है। इससे अलावा 58 और आर्सेनिक रिमूवल प्लांट भी आर्सेनिक प्रभावित गांवों में स्थापित भी हो जायेंगे।

इस्लामूदीन, महा. अभियान, जननिर्माण चल रहा है। कुछ जगह तो काम शुरू भी हो चुका है। विभाग ने इस

तहत नौरंगा व शिवपुर दियर मम्बरी में भी ओवरहेड टैंक का प्रस्ताव तैयार कर शासन को भेजा था। इसी बीच, उक्त गांवों में बिजली न होने की बात सामने आयी। इसके चलते विभाग ने अपने प्रस्ताव को वापस मंगा लिया है और उसी जगह गांवों में आर्सेनिक मुक्त पानी उपलब्ध कराने के लिए डीप बोरिंग हैंडपम्प का प्रस्ताव तैयार किया गया है। इस प्रस्ताव को भी शासन को भेज दिया गया है। उधर, आर्सेनिक प्रभावित गांवों में लगे 310 आर्सेनिक रिमूवल प्लांट के गांव नूदजिन बस्तियों में लोगों को शुद्ध पानी नसीब नहीं हो पा रहा है, उनके लिए भी विभाग ने एक प्रस्ताव तैयार किया है। इसके तहत 58 और आर्सेनिक रिमूवल प्लांट स्थापित होने हैं। विभाग ने इस प्रस्ताव को भी शासन को भेजा है। सूत्रों के मुताबिक, अगले तीन माह के अंदर इसकी मंजूरी मिल जायेगी और चयनित स्थानों पर रिमूवल प्लांट तथा डीप बोरिंग हैंडपम्प लगाये जायेंगे।

Sandhya B

Baharar

शिवपुर में बहुआयु में पानी टकी के चल नहीं होने से लोगों को शेष

50 हजार के सामने पानी का संकट

पालवणी दिवस्तान

शिवपुर में बहुआयु में पानी टकी के चल नहीं होने से लोगों को शेष



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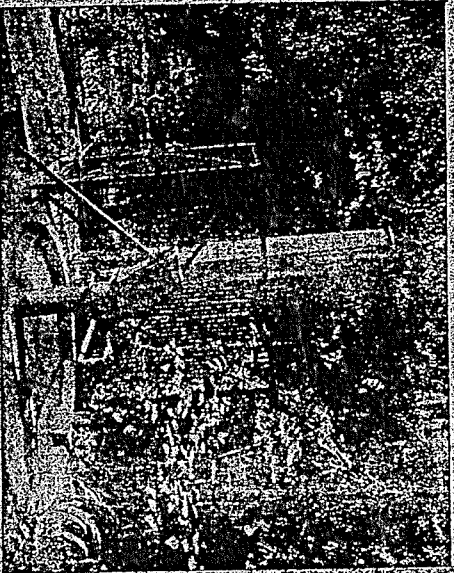
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आर्थिक विपत्तियों से निपटारे में लोगों की मदद है

पानी के रूप में लोणा पी रहे हैं मीठा जहर

देश के अनेक हिस्सों में लोणा पानी का उपयोग करने की आदत बढ़ रही है। इससे लोगों की स्वास्थ्य पर बुरा प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि लोणा पानी को पीने से शरीर में नमक का स्तर बढ़ जाता है, जिससे रक्तचाप, हृदय रोग, और अन्य स्वास्थ्य समस्याएँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।



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Sanjiv