

## **BIHAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (BHRC)**

*9, Bailey Road, Patna*

**File No. BHRC/Comp. 4180/16**

**(Suo Motu Cognizance)**

Sub: Arsenic contamination of ground water in Bihar & mitigation strategy.

Case of: **Villages of Buxar district**

BHRC takes suo motu cognizance of news item captioned **“Shocking Revelation: Arsenic traced in blood stream now - STOCKHOLM CONGRESS: Researchers also made a startling finding that arsenic level in ground water of Simri (Buxar) was 1,929 ppb (10ppb is normal), crossing all previous records”** published in Hindustan Times daily, Patna edition TODAY. A team of scientists from Mahavir Cancer Sansthan (MCS), Patna and A.N. College, Patna presented their findings before the International Arsenic Congress at Stockholm (June 19-23) that Arsenic levels in the ground water in the villages of **Tilak Rai ka Hata** and **Simri in Buxar district** (Bihar) have been found to be at 1,929 ppb (parts per billion) as against the maximum permissible limit of 10 ppb Arsenic in water. According to the report the scientists are suspecting correlation between high arsenic contamination and cancer. The team has detected 473 cases of melanosis, 428 cases of hyper keratosis and 351 other skin ailments in the village Tilak Rai ka Hata. Blood samples were examined by atomic absorption spectrometer at MCS.

2. The issue raises serious concerns about the health and human rights of the affected villagers. The Commission, therefore, directs the **Chief Secretary to Government of Bihar** to kindly file a **status report** on the issue which should, among other things, include the following:-

**(a) Previous studies on Arsenic contamination of ground water in Bihar, its effect on health and governmental response.**

**(b) Sensitization of the effected population and community participation.**

**(c) Utilization of inter-disciplinary expertise of various governmental & non-governmental departments/ organizations/agencies in evolving a holistic response and mitigation strategy.**

**3. Commission will be expecting a report from the Chief Secretary, Bihar or his nodal department before 26.08.2016 when the matter is listed next.**

**4. Copy of the order along with newspaper clippings be sent to (i) Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar for necessary action, (ii) Principal Secretary, PHED, Bihar (iii) Principal Secretary, Health Department, Bihar (iv) Director, Mahavir Cancer Sansthan, Patna and (v) Dr. A.K. Ghosh, Department of Environment & Water Management, A.N. College, Patna for information**

**5. List on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2016 before the bench of Hon'ble Chairperson, BHRC.**

**Sd/...  
(Neelmani)  
Member**

Date:06.07.2016

**Asstt. Registrar**