

*Table: 1 Proposed Drinking Water Quality in Nepal*

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Acceptable</b>
PH	6.5	6.5-9.2
Color (Pt-Cu scale)	15	30
Turbidity (NTU)	5	10
Manganese, Mn (mg/lit)	0.1	0.5
Iron, Fe (mg/lit)	0.3	3
Copper, Cu (mg/lit)	1	5
Chloride, Cl (mg/lit)	250	1000
Arsenic, As (mg/lit)	0.05	-
Cyanide, Cn (mg/lit)	0.07	0.2
Lead, Pb (mg/lit)	0.01	0.1
Mercury, Hg (mg/lit)	0.001	0.002

*(Source: ENPHO magazine)*

### **Situation of Arsenic Contamination in Nepal:**

Arsenic-contamination in the groundwater of Terai in Nepal is now becoming a new challenge for the nation's water supply sector. According to the arsenic database prepared by the National Arsenic Steering Committee as of November 2003, 7% of the 28956 tubes wells tested so far are found to contain arsenic levels above the national limit of 50 ppb . (Greater than 20% are above WHO limit of 10 ppb). Studies have also indicated that the arsenic distribution is not uniform throughout the country. Many of the villages in Nawalparasi and Rautahat districts and some of the villages in other Terai districts (Bara, Parsa, Siraha, Saptari, Kapilbastu, Rupandehi, Bardiya and Kailali) are found to be highly affected by arsenic (ENPHO Magazine 2004). Continued consumption of arsenic contaminated water generally leads to numerous diseases, including skin cancer, gangrene, hematological poisoning, cardiovascular and nervous disorders. The lungs, genitourinary tract, and other organs may also be affected. There is currently no clinical treatment for arsenic toxicity in the human body other than to stop arsenic intake.