GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 568
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022

DEATHS DUE TO CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

568 #. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:
SMT. CHHAYA VERMA:
SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:
CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year more than one lakh people die in the country due to contaminated drinking water;

(b) the details thereof during the last three years State-wise and year wise;

(c) whether Government would conduct a survey afresh to estimate the deaths owing to contaminated drinking water and water contamination;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons, therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a)to (e) Drinking water supply is a State subject. Water Supply/ Water & Sanitation/ Public Health Engineering Departments and/ or parastatal organization of respective State Government/ UT Administration, is responsible for making provision of water supply and quality of water supplied in their respective State/ UT.

To make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household by 2024, since August, 2019, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal. While allocating the funds under JJM to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is been given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Arsenic and Fluoride.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, while taking up schemes to make provision of potable tap water supply to rural households, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. Since planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply schemes in quality-affected habitations takes time, purely as an interim measure, States have been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) to provide safe water to @ of 8-10 litre per capita per day for drinking and cooking purposes especially in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations. Children being more susceptible to water borne diseases and contamination in drinking water, on 2nd October, 2020, a special campaign was launched to make provision of potable tap water supply in schools, anganwadi centres, ashramshalas, etc. on priority basis. As a result, provision of tap water supply has been made to 8.44 lakhs (82.03 %) schools and 8.63 lakhs (77.22%) anganwadi centres.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, IS 10500 is to be adopted for ensuring safe drinking water supply and States/ UTs have been advised to carry out testing of drinking water sources once in year for chemical and physical parameters and twice in a year for bacteriological parameters. To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed. The State–wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS is available in public domain on JJM Dashboard and can also be accessed at:

https://neer.icmr.org.in/website/main.php

This portal also provides automated alerts to concerned authorities in States/ UTs, if the water sample tested is contaminated, to initiate remedial actions. States/ UTs have also been advised to identify and train 5 persons preferably women in each village viz. ASHA workers, health workers, VWSC members, teachers, etc. to conduct water quality tests using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the portal.

As informed by Directorate General of Health Services, M/o Health and Family welfare, the number of cases of water-borne diseases such as Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Cholera, Viral Hepatitis – A, Viral Hepatitis – E and Leptospirosis reported is **Annexed.** The number of people died due to contaminated drinking water is not maintained by the Department.

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Annex

Annex referred in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 568 due for reply on 07.02.2022.

Number of cases of water-borne diseases

Water-borne diseases	No. of cases reported		
	2019	2020	2021
Acute Diarrheal Diseases	1,76,47,630	89,34,341	59,07,572
Cholera	615	70	209
Viral Hepatitis – A	18,475	5,303	4,077
Viral Hepatitis – E	9,634	2,362	1,359
Leptospirosis	7,335	4,950	6,086