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

**RAJYA SABHA**
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1386#**
TO BE ANSWERED ON - 19.12.2022

**IRON AND ARSENIC CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER**

1386#. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of drinking water in many parts of the country has become very poor due to large quantity of iron and arsenic in water and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to such contamination, lots of people in these areas are suffering from life threatening diseases;

(c) if so, whether Government has conducted any survey to mitigate this problem and to provide clean contamination free drinking water supply to the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OFSTATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (d) As reported by States/UTs, State-wise details of habitations having contaminants, including Arsenic and Iron, in drinking water sources beyond permissible limit are **annexed**.

"Water" being a state subject planning, approval and implementation of drinking water supply schemes, lies with state/UT governments. To make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country by 2024, since August, 2019, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal.

Under the JJM, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery. Water safety has been one of the key priorities under the JJM since its inception. States are advised to strictly ensure supply of safe drinking water as per these norms. Following measures have been taken under JJM to facilitate action on water quality aspects at state level –

- While allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

- The “Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework” was devised and disseminated to states in October 2021.
- To facilitate implementation of the above said Framework, more than 2000 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country. Besides this, States/ UTs to identify and train five persons, preferably women from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs) and so far, 15.75 lakh women have been trained.
- 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.
- Under JJM, while planning for potable water supply to household through tap water connection, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source takes time, purely as an interim measure, States/ UTs have been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) especially in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations to provide potable water to every household at the rate of 8–10 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements. Out of 731 rural habitations with reported Arsenic contamination beyond permissible limit in drinking water sources, CWPPs have been installed in 552 habitations to provide potable drinking water. Similarly, out of 564 habitations reported to have Fluoride contaminations beyond permissible limits in drinking water sources, CWPPs have been installed in 456 habitations to provide potable drinking water.

States/UTs have been directed to undertake testing of water quality on a periodic basis and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality standards (BIS:10500). As reported by States/UTs, as on 13/12/22, more than 25.66 lakh water samples have been tested in the water testing laboratories and 55.52 lakh water samples through the Field Testing Kits, in 2022-23 alone. The State–wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS are available in public domain on JJM Dashboard and can also be accessed at: https://ejalshakti.gov.in/WQMIS/

The detail regarding people having health hazard due to contaminated drinking water is not maintained centrally. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), an organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has shared technical guidelines for “Detection, Prevention and Management of Arsenicosis in India” with the States affected by Arsenicosis. IEC material for awareness of disease symptoms and prevention of Arsenicosis has also been shared with the affected states.

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**Annex**

**Annex referred to in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1386# to be answered on 19.12.2022**

**State-wise number of habitations affected with contamination in drinking water sources**

(As on 13.12.2022)

| S. No. | State | Number of quality-affected habitations | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Fluoride | | Arsenic | | Iron | Salinity | Nitrate | Heavy Metal |
| | | Total No. | Covered with CWPP | Total No. | Covered with CWPP | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | - | - | - | - | 149 | - | - | - |
| 2. | Assam | - | - | - | - | 10,030 | - | - | - |
| 3. | Bihar | - | - | - | - | 449 | - | - | - |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 75 | - | - | - | 25 | - | - | - |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 2 | 2 | - | - | 57 | - | - | - |
| 6. | Kerala | 5 | 5 | - | - | 61 | 18 | 8 | - |
| 7. | Lakshadweep | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | - | - |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | - | - |
| 9. | Maharashtra | - | - | - | - | 6 | 30 | 6 | - |
| 10. | Odisha | 39 | 39 | - | - | 1,970 | 26 | 6 | - |
| 11. | Punjab | 177 | 177 | 492 | 313 | 7 | - | 21 | 102 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 186 | 153 | - | - | 4 | 9,770 | 463 | - |
| 13. | Tripura | - | - | - | - | 656 | - | - | - |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 38 | 38 | 107 | 107 | 281 | 79 | 10 | - |
| 15. | Uttarakhand | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | - |
| 16. | West Bengal | 42 | 42 | 132 | 132 | 18 | 1 | - | 5 |
| **Total** | | **564** | **456** | **731** | **552** | **13,715** | **9,938** | **515** | **107** |

*Source: JJM-IMIS*