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

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *32
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

QUALITY OF WATER UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION

*32. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any remedial action to ensure that the water supplied under Jal Jeevan Mission is free of turbidity, bacterial contamination, excess mineral content and heavy metals; and

(b) if so, whether Government will undertake a study to assess the functionality of tap connections for households and village-level public institutions?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) A Statement of reply is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *32 answered on 06.02.2023

(a) & (b) Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, since August, 2019, in partnership with States, 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. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' IS:10500 standard is to be adopted for ensuring safe drinking water supply. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, States/ UTs have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes of bulk water transfer based on safe water sources such as surface water sources or alternative safe ground water sources for the villages with water quality issues.

Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source may take 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.

States/UTs have been advised to undertake testing of water quality on a periodic basis *i.e.* once in year for chemical and physical parameters, and twice in a year for bacteriological parameters and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.

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. As reported by States/UTs on WQMIS, as on 01/02/23, more than 43.17 lakh water samples have been tested in the water testing laboratories and 77.66 lakh water samples using Field Testing Kits, during 2022-23. 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/Main/report

As reported by States/UTs, as on date, there are 2,077 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country. To encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate.

States/ UTs have been advised to identify and train 5 persons preferably women from every village to conduct water quality testing using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, as reported by states/UTs, about 18.07 lakh women have been trained.

Under JJM, it has been envisaged to carry out regular functionality assessment. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, undertakes annual assessment of the functionality of tap water connections provided to rural households as well as public institutions viz. schools, anganwaadi centres etc., through an independent third-party agency, based on statistically significant sampling at district level. The functionality of tap water connections is assessed on three

parameters viz. adequate quantity, prescribed quality and regularity. Last two such assessments were carried out in 2020-21 and 2021-22. During 2023-24 also, this Department has planned to undertake the functionality assessment of tap water connections.

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