

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1810
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Ground water pollution

1810. SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether indiscriminate use of fertilizers is the primary reason for rapidly increasing ground water pollution in the country over the years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken by Government to prevent ground water pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a)&(b)

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors ground water quality data throughout the country annually and generates ground water quality data on a regional scale. The data indicates the occurrence of contaminants such as Flouride, Arsenic, Nitrate, Iron and Heavy Metals beyond BIS permissible limits in isolated pockets in certain parts of the country. The ground water contamination reported by CGWB is mostly geogenic in nature and does not show significant change over the years. However, nitrate contamination has been noticed in some areas, particularly areas adjoining habitations. Nitrate contamination can also be caused by excessive use of nitrogenous fertilizers.

Water being a State subject, various States have been taking several steps in this regard. Steps have also been taken by the Central Government for facilitating ground water quality improvement/ remediation of contamination in the country which inter-alia includes following:

- i. Sharing of data on ground water quality available with CGWB with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
- ii. Construction of wells by CGWB for Exploration of Ground Water. Successful contamination- free wells are handed over to the State Governments for gainful utilization.
- iii. Special attention to aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water under National Aquifer Mapping Programme

(NAQUIM) of CGWB and constructions of arsenic safe exploratory wells for arsenic affected parts of the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

- iv. Awareness generation programs/ workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water.

Further, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has issued guidelines on 24 September 2020 for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability. The guidelines include clauses on 'Measures to be adopted to ensure prevention from pollution in the plant premises of polluting industries/projects'. Also, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) is implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in the country to prevent and control pollution in water.
