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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2976 #
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023.

PROBLEM OF CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

2976 #. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in the country who do not have access to pure drinking water;

(b) the number of people who fell sick and died every year due to the contaminated water during the last five years;

(c) the number of people in the country who consume water having high level of arsenic contamination;

(d) the number of people in the country forced to drink lead and nitrate contaminated water; and

(e) the number of highly polluted rivers in the country and the details of the rivers in which aquatic ecosystem is on the verge of destruction due to pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) "Water" being a state subject, planning, approval and implementation of drinking water supply schemes, lies with state/UT governments. Water Supply/ Water & Sanitation/ Public Health Engineering Departments and/or parastatal organization of respective State Government/ UT Administration, are responsible for making provision of water supply and ensuring quality of water supplied in their respective State/UT.

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

States/ UTs have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes based on alternative safe 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.

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. States/UTs have been advised to carry out testing of water quality on a periodic basis, i.e. once in a 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.

As reported by States/UTs, as on date, there are 2,078 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, in every village to conduct water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs)/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, as reported by states/UTs, about 20.29 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.

Under JJM, contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas is monitored on habitation wise. As reported by States, as on date, safe drinking water is available in all reported Arsenic/ Fluoride-affected habitations in the country for drinking and cooking requirements through short term measures such as CWPPs. As reported by States/ UTs, as on date, details of habitations affected with contamination in drinking water sources is **annexed**. The details regarding persons having health hazard due to contaminated drinking water is not maintained centrally.

(e) Central Pollution Control Board in association with State Pollution Control Boards & Pollution Control Committees has been assessing water quality of aquatic resources in the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Network (NWMP). At present, the network consists of 4484 locations spread in 28 States and 7 Union Territories including 2108 locations on rivers, 1235 locations on ground water, 194 locations on marine/beach/sea/creeks, 64 locations on canals & others including 690 locations on stagnant water bodies (437 locations on Lakes, 141 locations on Tanks and 112 locations on Ponds). In year 2022, by analysis of water quality of 603 rivers for the years 2019 and 2021, CPCB has identified 311 polluted river stretches on 279 rivers in the country, on the basis of exceedance of Bathing Water Quality Criteria parameter of BOD (exceeding 3 mg/L).

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Annex

Annex referred to in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2976# answered on 27.03.2023

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

(As on 23.03.2023)

S. No.	State	Number of quality affected habitations								
		Fluoride		Arsenic		Iron	Salinity	Nitrate	Heavy Metal	
		Total no.	Covered with short term measure/ CWPP	Total no.	Covered with short term measure/ CWPP				Total no.	Covered with short term measure/ CWPP
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	149	-	-	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-	-	-	7,479	-	-	-	-
3.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	84	-	-	-	-
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
5.	Jharkhand	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
6.	Kerala	4	4	-	-	58	17	8	-	-
7.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
9.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	6	30	6	-	-
10.	Odisha	33	33	-	-	1,553	16	6	-	-
11.	Punjab	176	176	441	441	3	-	17	86	58
12.	Rajasthan	152	152	-	-	4	9,749	461	-	-
13.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	349	-	-	-	-
14.	Uttar Pradesh	38	38	107	107	277	78	10	-	-
15.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
16.	West Bengal	40	40	100	100	5	-	-	1	-
Total		**445**	**445**	**648**	**648**	**9,977**	**9,903**	**509**	**87**	**58**

Source: JJM-IMIS