

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3601**  
**ANSWERED ON 3.04.2023.**

**ARSENIC AND FLUORIDE CONTAMINATION OF WATER**

**3601. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:**

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of long term and permanent efforts/steps being made/taken by Government to eradicate contamination of arsenic and fluoride in drinking water and groundwater in affected areas; and
- (b) the details of fund allocated for the said long term and permanent steps/schemes during 2023-24, scheme-wise and State-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) “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 Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards’ BIS:10500 standards are adopted as benchmarks for quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes.

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 habitations 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 JJM, contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas is monitored on habitation wise. As reported by States, as on 28.03.2023, 625 rural habitations are affected with Arsenic contamination and 431 rural habitations are affected with Fluoride contamination beyond permissible limit in drinking water sources. Provision of potable drinking water for cooking and drinking requirements has been made in all these 625 Arsenic-affected and 431 Fluoride-affected habitations.

In 2023-24, Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) of Rs.70,000 Crore has been proposed for

implementation of the mission. The State/ UT-wise allocation of funds under the JJM is decided as per the provisions of its Operational Guidelines. JJM follows a saturation approach and hence, funds released to States/ UTs under JJM are utilized to cover all habitations, including in quality-affected habitations on priority. Under JJM, scheme/project-wise fund allocation is not made and maintained at Government of India level.

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