

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION**

**RAJYA SABHA STARRED
QUESTION NO. *2
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

Arsenic-affected habitations in West Bengal

*2. Smt. Mausam Noor

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of habitations affected by arsenic contamination in West Bengal as of the latest available data in 2023;
- (b) the total number of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) installed in arsenic-affected habitations in West Bengal as an interim measure under the Jal Jeevan Mission; and
- (c) the details of Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) installed in arsenic-affected habitations in West Bengal in terms of habitations and population?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 2 to be answered on 04.12.2023 regarding Arsenic-affected habitations in West Bengal asked by Smt Mausam Noor.

(a) to (c) “Water” is a state subject, and hence the responsibilities of providing safe and adequate tap water to all rural households, lie with the state/UT governments. 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. 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.

It was envisaged that planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source in such habitations may take time, therefore, 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 to meet their drinking and cooking requirements.

As per data reported by the State Government of West Bengal, 59 habitations have been marked in Jal Jeevan Mission – Integrated Management Information System (JJM-IMIS) as affected by Arsenic contamination as on 29.11.2023. All these habitations have been provided with Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) as an interim measure. District-wise number of arsenic-affected habitations, number of arsenic-affected habitations provided with CWPPs, number of CWPPs installed in such habitations, and population served as on 29.11.2023 is **Annexed.**

Furthermore, for assured delivery of safe water, strengthening, up-gradation, improving the functioning of drinking water quality testing laboratories technical and financial support is being given under JJM. As reported by States/ UTs, as on 29.11.2023, there are 2,111 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country. Out of 2,111 laboratories, 1,324 laboratories have been National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited/ recognized. 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.

In order to empower citizens, 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 Water Quality Monitoring Information System (WQMIS) portal. So far, as reported by states/UTs, more than 23.29 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.

Annex referred to in Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 2 to be answered on 04.12.2023

District-wise number of arsenic-affected habitations, number of arsenic-affected habitations provided with CWPPs, number of CWPPs installed in such habitations, and population served (as on 29.11.2023)

S. No.	Name of the District	Number of arsenic-affected habitations	Number of arsenic-affected habitations provided with CWPPs	Number of CWPPs installed in these habitations	Population served
1.	Maldah	37	37	39	32,330
2.	Murshidabad	16	16	19	29,898
3.	Nadia	01	01	02	124
4.	North 24 Paraganas	05	05	07	1,728
Total		59	59	67	64,080
