

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1692

ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

GROUNDWATER POLLUTION

1692. SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is widespread groundwater contamination resulting from industrial activity;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to redress groundwater contamination due to industrial activity;
- (c) whether Government has considered providing more funds under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to areas with higher groundwater contamination; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates data of ground water quality every year through its country wide network of monitoring wells and also conducts special studies on ground water quality. Further, The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under National Water Quality Programme (NWMP) is monitoring ground water quality at 1,233 locations, based on the criteria stipulated for selection of locations to regulate contamination due to industrial discharges. The data generated through these monitoring activities indicate that the ground water available in the country, in general, is potable and suitable for various usage. However, localized occurrence of ground water having various chemical constituents in excess of the limits prescribed for drinking water use has been observed in number of states.

(b) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management, including its quality is primarily States's responsibility; however, various steps have been taken by the Central Government for controlling ground water pollution in the country.

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 to prevent and control pollution in water. CPCB has taken following steps for controlling ground water pollution:

- i. a comprehensive programme on water pollution for controlling point sources has been prepared by developing industry specific standards and general standards for discharge of effluents notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for enforcement by SPCBs/PCCs.

- ii. Time-Targeted Action Programme under Corporate Responsibility on Environment Protection (CREP),
- iii. Establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of Small Scale Industries,
- iv. CPCB has directed all the 17 category of highly polluting industries to install Online Continuous Effluent / emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) with real time data connectivity to CPCB which conducts regular inspection and takes action on exceedance alerts received through OCEMS or offline.
- v. Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) policy to protect the water quality in view of lean flow situation in rivers and streams in a larger non monsoon period.
- vi. CPCB has initiated penal action in the form of imposing EC and has evolved a methodology for levying such EC against the industries /facilities not-complying with the norms.

Further, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued guidelines dated 24.09.2020 for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability which include suitable provisions on measures to be adopted to ensure groundwater free from pollution.

(c) & (d) The adverse effects of the groundwater pollution can be addressed to a large extent if safe water is made available to public for which central Government in partnership with States/UTs, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply of prescribed quality to every rural household in the country by 2024. Under JJM, while allocating the central grants-in-aid to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants. Further, while taking up schemes to make provision of potable tap water supply to rural households, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. In case planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply schemes in quality-affected habitations takes time, purely as an interim measure, States have been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) to provide safe water to @ of 8-10 litre per capita per day for drinking and cooking purposes.
