

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 97
ANSWERED ON – 25/11/2024

SUPPLY OF SAFE DRINKING WATER IN QUALITY AFFECTED HABITATIONS

97 SHRI MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any effective measure to address water quality issue like iron, salinity and nitrate in the affected habitations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has settled Community Water Purification Plans (CWPPs) in such affected habitations, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for not taking effective measures as well as setting of CWPPs in such habitations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

(a) to (c) Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country. Under the 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. Drinking Water being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission, 3.23 Crore rural households were reported to have tap water connections. As reported by States/UTs on JJM-IMIS, so far more than 12.05 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 20/11/2024, out of 19.34 Crore rural households in the country, more than 15.28 Crore (79.04%) rural households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. The State/UT, district & village-wise status of tap water connection in rural households, as reported by States/UTs, is also in public domain and available on JJM dashboard at:

<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, priority is given to habitations affected by chemical contaminants such as Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, salinity, nitrate and Heavy metals. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage was 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. Due to these efforts, the number of reported drinking water quality-affected habitations has reduced over the years from 57,539 habitations in August, 2019 to 12,126 habitations as on 20/11/2024. Which includes The Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations have reduced from 14,020 and 7,996 to 314 and 255 habitations as on date. The provision of safe drinking water for cooking and drinking requirements has been made available in all the remaining 314 Arsenic-affected and 255 Fluoride-affected habitations through CWPPs/ IHPs.

Under JJM, it was envisaged that planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source 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.
