

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 111**

ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

**DISEASES DUE TO EXCESSIVE ARSENIC CONCENTRATION IN GROUNDWATER**

111 #. SMT. DHARMSHILA GUPTA

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether people in Darbhanga, Bihar are struggling with severe diseases due to excessive Arsenic concentration in groundwater, if so, whether Government has conducted any research on this issue; and
- (b) whether the State Government has provided any funds or issued guidelines to address this groundwater issue, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data for the entire country including Bihar on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. The data on ground water quality for Bihar indicates that the ground water in the state remains largely potable. However, localized occurrence of certain contaminants, including heavy metals like Arsenic, beyond the limits prescribed for drinking water use has been reported in some isolated pockets. In the analysis conducted during 2024, out of 5 samples tested in Darbhanga, only one has been found with Arsenic beyond permissible limit. However, further detailed studies are required to ascertain whether people have been affected due to consumption of Arsenic contaminated ground water in Darbhanga, Bihar.

Also as per Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, in view of the piped water supply scheme coverage, as reported by Bihar in Integrated Management Information System of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM-IMIS), as on date, no rural habitations are likely at the risk of consumption of Arsenic affected ground water.

CGWB has been conducting aquifer studies under National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM), in which special attention is given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water. The study reports along with mitigation measures are disseminated to the State and District administrations for suitable field interventions. Further, CGWB has developed the innovative cement sealing technology for tapping deeper Arsenic free aquifers and has so far successfully constructed 40 Arsenic safe exploratory wells in Bihar. CGWB is also providing technical assistance to state departments for taking up similar constructions.

**(b)** Water is a state subject and the responsibility of ground water management, including taking initiatives for improving ground water quality and mitigate the contamination issue, lies primarily with the state governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects.

The Union government's efforts towards handling ground water quality issues are mainly channelized through Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)– Har Ghar Jal, which is being implemented by this Ministry in partnership with states for providing contamination free potable tap water to every rural household of the country. Although funds are not separately allocated for dealing with Arsenic mitigation under JJM, states with more population residing in areas affected by chemical contamination are allocated additional funds as 10% weightage is given to such areas. As per the available information, an amount of Rs. 3.03 lakh Cr has been allocated for JJM (Central Share) during the last three years. Out of this amount, up to 2% can be utilized by the states for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance. Further, it is for the state governments to devise and execute suitable projects from the allocated amount based on local requirements. Additionally, under JJM, “Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework” has been devised and disseminated to states in October 2021. This framework delineates a comprehensive plan to ensure safe drinking water for all, particularly in rural areas. It outlines strategies for testing, surveillance, and data management to detect and address water quality issues.

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