

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2788

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

FLUORIDE CONTENT IN GROUNDWATER

2788. SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per Central Groundwater Board, out of 345 water samples analysed in the State of Karnataka, more than 61 samples in various districts, such as Ballari, Bengaluru rural, Vijayapura, Mysuru, Raichur, etc., nearly 18 per cent samples contain Fluoride more than the prescribed limit in groundwater samples;
- (b) efforts being made by the Central Government, in coordination with the State Government, to address Fluoride content from groundwater; and
- (c) through Jal Jeevan Mission, Government is planning to provide funds and address Fluoride content in groundwater?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the entire country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. Based on such monitoring data from several monitoring locations spread across the country, the Annual Ground Water Quality Report, 2024 has been released. Overall, the data on ground water quality indicates that the ground water in the country remains largely potable. However, localized occurrence of certain contaminants, like Arsenic, Fluoride, Heavy metals, Nitrates etc, beyond the prescribed limits for drinking water use has been reported in certain isolated pockets of some States/UTs, including Karnataka.

Further, Water being a state subject, the responsibility of addressing ground water contamination and providing safe drinking water to citizens lies primarily with the State Governments. Nonetheless, to complement the efforts of the state governments, several steps have been taken by the Central Government to address these issues across the country, including Karnataka. Some of the important ones are mentioned below:-

- i. The ground water quality data generated by CGWB is regularly disseminated through Annual Reports, Half-yearly Bulletins and Fortnightly Alerts for quick action by the stakeholders.

- ii. In order to enhance monitoring efficiency, a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Groundwater Quality Monitoring has been adopted by CGWB, which stipulates more frequent and denser sampling, particularly in vulnerable areas, to ensure a more comprehensive assessment of groundwater quality.
- iii. Under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) of CGWB, while taking up aquifer studies, special attention is being given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Fluoride.
- iv. Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, in partnership with states, for providing contamination free potable tap water to every rural household of the country in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis.

(c) Jal Jeevan Mission has made water safety a key priority since its inception. Under the JJM, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery. Additionally, the following measures have been put in place for ensuring water quality under JJM ;

- While allocating the funds to States/UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.
- The “Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework” was devised and disseminated to states in October 2021.
- To facilitate implementation of the above said Framework, around 2180 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country. Besides this, five persons, preferably women are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs). States/UTs have been advised to carry out testing of water quality on a regular basis and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.
- States/UTs have also been advised to install Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) as an interim measure, especially in quality affected habitations, to provide potable drinking water to every household.

Owing to above measures and other cumulative efforts by all stakeholders, as reported by the State in JJM portal, there are no Fluoride affected habitations left in the state of Karnataka, as on date.

With regard to allocation of funds, under JJM funds are not separately allocated for dealing with Fluoride contamination. Out of the allocated amount, up to 2% can be utilized by the states for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance. As per the available information on JJM dashboard, from 2019-20 to 2024-25 (till date), an amount of Rs.28,623 Cr has been allocated to the state of Karnataka as Central share.
