

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1685
ANSWERED ON 15/12/2025

RIISING FLUORIDE LEVELS IN GROUNDWATER IN MAYURBHANJ DISTRICT

1685# SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that in some blocks of Mayurbhanj district in the State of Odisha, the Fluoride content in groundwater is found to be above the permissible limit, causing health-related problems among local residents;
- (b) details of the ongoing schemes and technological interventions to ensure the availability of safe drinking water in these areas; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to strengthen community awareness, regular water testing, and Fluoride mitigation facilities at schools and Panchayat levels in the affected villages?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, was launched in August 2019, in partnership with States/ UTs including Odisha to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to rural households. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards are adopted as benchmark for quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes. Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, priority is given to habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Fluoride. 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.

Under JJM, a web based integrated management information system (JJM-IMIS) and water quality management information system (WQMIS) have been developed to capture and monitor the data of water quality affected habitations, where States/UTs provide status of habitation that have contamination in their drinking water sources. As reported by the State of Odisha on JJM-IMIS, as on date, there are 14 habitations in Odisha (including 2 habitations from Mayurbhanj district) that have fluoride contamination in their drinking water sources. However, all these 14 habitations have been provided with safe drinking water to the tune of at least 8-10 litres per capita per day (lpcd) for drinking and cooking purpose through community water purification plants (CWPPs).

The Department released the "Handbook on Drinking Water Treatment Technologies" which was published in March 2023 and the "Concise Handbook for Monitoring Water Quality of Piped Drinking Water Supply to Rural Households" in December 2024. Both aims to guide field practitioners in effectively managing safe water supply system.

A 'Citizen Corner' was also developed on the JJM Dashboard. The corner included display of village level water quality test results in the public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas.

As reported by States/UTs, as on date, there are 2,848 drinking water quality testing laboratories at various levels viz. State, regional, district, sub-division, block, mobile and/ or WTP facility laboratories. To encourage water quality testing to the rural community/ public, the States/ UTs have opened water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate.

Further, Central Ground Water Board, an organisation under the D/o Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DOWR, RD&GR) has conducted various programmes with the objective of reaching out to people and raising awareness about the importance of groundwater quality management and water conservation. Central Ground Water Board organizes Public Interaction Programmes (PIPs), Mass Awareness Programmes (MAPs), and Tier-III training programmes on local groundwater issues, including educating the public about the impacts of water contamination and promoting sustainable practices to maintain water quality. Information on rainwater harvesting techniques and the role of recharge structures in improving water quality is also shared with participants.
