

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2627

ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

CONTAMINATION OF GROUND AND SURFACE WATER

2627 SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that chemical contamination of ground and surface water from natural contaminants such as arsenic and fluoride or industrial pollutants contributes to around five per cent of the total disease burden in the country and if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to tackle this issue; and

(b) the total number of deaths caused due to water-borne diseases in country during the last three years, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) The focus of the Government is to make safe drinking water available to all citizens, and no information pertaining to five percent contribution of diseases due to chemical contamination of ground and surface water from natural contaminants such as arsenic and fluoride or industrial pollutants on total disease burden in the country is readily available.

Water being a State subject, initiatives for ground water management, including its quality is primarily the responsibility of the States. However, various steps have been taken by the Central Government for facilitating ground water quality improvement/ remediation of contamination in the country.

The adverse effects of the water pollution can be addressed if safe water is made available to public. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented in rural areas since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply of prescribed quality to every rural household by 2024. Further, National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) was launched on 22nd March, 2017 as a part of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which has been subsumed with JJM, to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 arsenic/fluoride affected rural habitations in the country.

Similarly, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme is being implemented since June 25, 2015, in selected 500 cities and towns across the country which focuses on

development of basic urban infrastructure in the AMRUT cities, such as water supply, sewerage & septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces & parks, and non-motorized urban transport. Further, AMRUT- 2.0 has been launched on 01st October 2021 for the period of 05 years (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26), with the objective of providing universal coverage of water supply through functional household tap connection in all statutory towns in the country.

The water pollution also owe its origin to contamination of surface water sources for which various efforts have been made in the country by installing Sewage Treatment Plants, Effluent Treatment Plants and better system of sewage networks etc.

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.

This Department has issued guidelines for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability notified on 24 September 2020. The guidelines include suitable provisions on measures to be adopted to ensure groundwater free from pollution.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies which are shared with States/UTs for suitable corrective action.

(b) Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, publishes National Health Profile (NHP) reports wherein the State/UT-wise information (year-wise) on number of cases/deaths due to various diseases including certain water-borne diseases have been compiled. The information in this regard can accessed through URL –

<https://www.cbhidghs.nic.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=1&sublinkid=75&lid=1135>.
