

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †65
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

HEALTH HAZARDS DUE TO WATER CONTAMINANTS

†65. DR. MANOJ RAJORIA:
SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI:
SHRIMATI RANJEETA KOLI:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people exposed to health hazards due to presence of excess arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrate contents etc. in ground water in Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme is being formulated by the Government to improve the water storage infrastructure to raise the ground water level in Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b) “Water” being a state subject, planning, approval and implementation of drinking water supply schemes, lies with state/UT governments. Water Supply/ Water & Sanitation/ Public Health Engineering Departments and/or parastatal organization of respective State Government/ UT Administration, are responsible for making provision of water supply and ensuring quality of water supplied in their respective State/UT.

Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, since August, 2019, in partnership with States, to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household, by 2024. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

Under JJM, while planning for potable water supply to household through tap water connection, priority is to be given to quality-affected habitations. Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source may take time, 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 at the rate of 8–10 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements.

As reported by the Rajasthan State, as on 31.01.2023, the district-wise detail of quality affected habitations is **Annexed**.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' IS:10500 standard is to be adopted for ensuring safe drinking water supply. States/UTs have been advised to undertake testing of water quality on a periodic basis and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.

To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed. As reported by States/UTs on WQMIS, as on 31.01. 2023, about 42.85 lakh water samples have been tested in the water testing laboratories and 77.29 lakh water samples using Field Testing Kits, during 2022-23. The State-wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS are available in public domain on JJM Dashboard and can also be accessed at:

<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/WQMIS/Main/report>

To encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate.

States/ UTs have been advised to identify and train 5 persons preferably women from every village to conduct water quality tests using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, about 18.06 lakh women have been trained.

The details regarding persons having health hazard due to contaminated drinking water is not maintained centrally.

(c) & (d) Regarding improvement in water storage infrastructure to raise the ground water level, Amrit Sarovar Mission has been launched on 24th April 2022, which aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6,000 crore scheme with World Bank funding, for sustainable management of ground water with community participation is being taken up in the identified over-exploited and water stressed areas in Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

During 2021-22, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up Artificial recharge projects in select water stressed areas in parts of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer & Sikar Districts in Rajasthan. The estimated cost of structures for Rajasthan is Rs 96.04 Cr, in which earthen dams, Check Dams, Anicuts, Recharge Shafts with Ponds are considered.

Also, in 2019, Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was conducted to bring awareness on various aspects of water conservation and promote rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge in 256 water stressed districts and was expanded to the whole country in 2021. “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) - 2022 campaign, the third in the series of JSAs, has been launched on 29.3.2022 to cover all the blocks of all districts across the country including all districts of Rajasthan. As per the information available on the JSA: CTR portal, 1.21 lakh water related works, which includes water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of tradition water bodies, reuse and recharge structures and watershed development, are completed/ ongoing in the State in Rajasthan under JSA:CTR 2022, during the period 29.03.2022 to 30.11.2022.

Annex referred to in the reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. †65 to be answered on 02.02.2023

District-wise number of water quality-affected habitations in Rajasthan
(As on 31.01.2023)

S. No	District	Number of quality-affected habitations					
		Fluoride-affected		Arsenic-affected	Iron-affected	Salinity-affected	Nitrate-affected
		Total No.	Covered with CWPP				
1.	Alwar	65	65	-	-	30	1
2.	Banswara	11	-	-	-	1	5
3.	Baran	-	-	-	-	2	1
4.	Barmer	9	9	-	-	8,558	4
5.	Bharatpur	-	-	-	-	431	6
6.	Bhilwara	1	1	-	-	7	9
7.	Bikaner	1	1	-	-	14	84
8.	Bundi	-	-	-	-	37	22
9.	Chittaurgarh	1	1	-	1	36	34
10.	Dausa	14	10	-	-	6	18
11.	Dhaulpur	-	-	-	-	1	-
12.	Dungarpur	-	-	-	-	1	17
13.	Hanumangarh	-	-	-	-	3	-
14.	Jaipur	-	-	-	-	16	3
15.	Jaisalmer	28	28	-	1	2	15
16.	Jhunjhunun	4	4	-	-	4	4
17.	Jodhpur	22	22	-	-	504	55
18.	Karauli	-	-	-	-	19	7
19.	Kota	-	-	-	2	16	9
20.	Nagaur	-	-	-	-	2	8
21.	Pali	13	9	-	-	4	23
22.	Pratapgarh	-	-	-	-	1	103
23.	Rajsamand	-	-	-	-	2	10
24.	Sawai Madhopur	-	-	-	-	9	3
25.	Sikar	2	2	-	-	7	9
26.	Udaipur	-	-	-	-	39	13

Source: JJM-IMIS