

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-†*204
ANSWERED ON-03/08/2023.

HEALTH HAZARDS DUE TO CONTAMINATED WATER

†*204. SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK:

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) the details of the number of people exposed to health hazards caused by drinking water contaminated due to high levels of arsenic, fluoride, iron, salinity and nitrates in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, district-wise;
- (b) whether any corrective steps have been taken by the Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to improve the water harvesting infrastructure in order to raise water level in the aforesaid States and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) A Statement of reply is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in the reply to parts (a) to (c) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*204 answered on 03/08/2023.

(a) to (c): 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. “Water” being a state subject planning, approval and implementation of drinking water supply schemes, lies with State/UT governments.

At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission, 3.23 Crore rural households were reported to have tap water connections. As reported by States/UTs as on 01/08/2023, more than 9.47 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 01/08/2023, out of 19.42 Crore rural households in the country, more than 12.70 Crore (65.38%) rural households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

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. 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.

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 carry out testing of water quality on a periodic basis, i.e. once in a year for chemical and physical parameters, and twice in a year for bacteriological parameters and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.

As reported by States/UTs, as on date, there are 2,087 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country. 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, in every village to conduct water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs)/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, as reported by states/UTs, more than 22.42 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.

Since launch of JJM, year-wise, testing of water quality samples in the laboratories has increased from around 40 lakhs samples in 2018-19 to more than 62 lakh samples in 2022-23. Similarly, testing of water quality using FTKs has increased from around 11 lakh samples in 2018-19 to 1.07 crore water samples during 2022-23.

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. 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>

As reported by states/UTs, since launch of JJM, out 57,539 quality-affected habitations as reported on 1st August,2019, potable water has been made available in 39,039 habitations. Also, provision of safe drinking water has been made in all 14,020 Arsenic and 7,996 Fluoride affected habitations by respective States. As reported by the States/ UTs, details of drinking water quality-affected habitations, as on 01.08.2023, is **annexed**. The details regarding persons having health hazard due to contaminated drinking water is not maintained centrally.

The Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater – 2020 has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in consultation with States/ UTs and circulated to all States/ UTs for implantation, indicating various suitable structures for different terrain conditions of the country. The master plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. Further, CGWB has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) project in the entire mappable area of about 25 lakh sq. km. The aquifer map and management plan have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain is a campaign which aims to encourage water conservation at grass-root levels with people's participation. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in the year 2019 in 256 water stressed districts of the country. Since 2021, it is being implemented across the country annually as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR). The fourth in the series, JSA: CTR 2023 has been launched on 04.03.2023 with the theme “Source Sustainability for Drinking Water”. The campaign covers all rural and urban areas of all districts (all blocks and municipalities) across the country.

Atal Bhujal Yojana is being implemented in identified water stressed areas of 8220 Gram Panchayats (GPs) under 229 administrative Blocks/ Talukas in 80 districts of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with an aim to arrest decline in ground water level through community led sustainable groundwater management for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2020.

Annex as referred in the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. †*204 answered on 03/08/2023
State-wise number of drinking water quality-affected habitations
(As on 01/08/2023)

S. No.	State	Number of quality-affected habitations								
		Fluoride		Arsenic		Heavy Metals		Iron	Salinity	Nitrate
		Total	Covered with CWPP	Total	Covered with CWPP	Total	Covered with CWPP			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,490	-	-
3.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	66	-	-
4.	Jharkhand	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Kerala	4	4	-	-	-	-	58	17	8
6.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
7.	Odisha	24	24	-	-	-	-	1,067	11	6
8.	Punjab	176	176	320	320	85	57	3	-	17
9.	Rajasthan	150	150	-	-	-	-	4	8,840	436
10.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	316	-	-
11.	Uttar Pradesh	10	10	63	63	-	-	147	14	2
12.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
13.	West Bengal	39	39	76	76	-	-	3	-	-
