

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3589

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

QUALITY OF GROUND WATER

3589. DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the 16th Bihar economic survey report (2021-22) which has indicated decrease in quality of ground water sources in rural Bihar due to massive levels of chemical contamination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Union Government proposes to rectify the situation; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce temporary relief programmes to provide safe drinking water to the people in the affected districts of Bihar and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) As per 16th Bihar Economic Survey report (2021-22) published by Government of Bihar, groundwater contamination has been reported in certain districts of Bihar.

Further, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) also generates ground water quality data annually on regional scale through ground water quality monitoring throughout the country. This monitoring indicates the occurrence of various contaminants beyond the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) permissible limits for human consumption in isolated pockets in certain parts of the country including Bihar. Details of the partially affected districts (isolated pockets) in the State of Bihar are given at **Annexure**.

Water being a State subject planning, approval and implementation of safe drinking water supply schemes, lies with State/UT governments, however, Central government is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal in rural areas of the country including Bihar.

(c) Government of India is implementing JJM since August, 2019, in partnership with States including Bihar, to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country including Bihar. 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/for temporary relief, 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.

Further, as reported by the State Government, as on 07/08/2023, more than 1.57 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connection since the launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Bihar. Thus, as on date, more than 1.60 crore (96.39%) households out of 1.66 crore rural households are having tap water connection in Bihar. The State/UT, district & village-wise status of tap water connection in rural households can be seen at <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3589 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 10.08.2023 REGARDING “QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER”.

Details of Partly Affected Districts with various Contaminants in Ground Water of Bihar

State/UT	Salinity (EC above 3000 micro mhos/cm) (EC : Electrical Conductivity)	Fluoride (above 1.5 mg/l)	Nitrate (above 45 mg/l)	Arsenic (above 0.01 mg/l)	Iron (above 1mg/l)	Heavy metals: Lead (above 0.01 mg/l) Cadmium (above 0.003 mg/l) Chromium (above 0.05 mg/l)	Uranium (Above 30 µg/l)
Bihar	Aurangabad, Begusarai, East Champaran, Jehanabad, Nalanda, Samastipur, Saran.	Aurangabad, Banka, Bhagalpur, Gaya, Jahanabad, Jamui, Kaimur (Bhabua), Lakhisarai, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Rohtas, Saharsa, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Supaul.	Araria, Arwal, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Patna, Purnea, Rohtas, Samastipur, Saran, Seikhpura, Sheohar, Siwan, Supaul, Vaishali, West Champaran.	Araria, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Gopalganj, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul, Vaishali, West Champaran.	Araria, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhabua, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, East Champaran, Gaya, Gopalganj, Jamui, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Patna, Purnea, Rohtas, Saharsa, Samastipur, Saran, Seikhpura, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul.	Lead: Bhabhua, Bhojpur, Buxar, Katihar, Kishanganj, Madhubani, Rohtas, Samastipur, Vaishali. Chromium: Madhubani, Samastipur, Vaishali.	Saran, Bhabua, Khagari, Madhepura, Nawada, Sheikhpura, Purnea, Kishanganj, Begusarai, Vaishali.
Total (No. of districts affected)	07	17	32	27	33	Pb: 09 Cr:03	10
