

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-784
ANSWERED ON-07.12.2023

QUALITY OF DRINKING WATER

784. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to monitor the quality of drinking water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has carried out periodic tests to ascertain the quality of water in industrial regions and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken the steps to tackle possible health hazards due to contaminated water used for drinking and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c) The 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 a regular & long-term basis to every rural household. States/ UTs have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes based on alternative safe water sources for all the villages with water quality issues.

As per operational guidelines of Jal Jeevan Mission, all States/UTs have been advised to carry out testing of water quality on a periodic basis, i.e. once in a year for chemical parameters, and twice in a year for bacteriological parameters. The Guidelines also provide remedial action is taken wherever necessary, to prevent the use of contaminated water for drinking and thereby, to tackle possible health hazards due to such use.

Furthermore, for assured delivery of safe water, strengthening, up-gradation, and improving the functioning of drinking water quality testing laboratories technical and financial support is being given under JJM. As reported by the States/ UTs, as on 05.12.2023, there are 2,111 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country. Out of 2,111 laboratories, 1,324 laboratories have been National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited/ recognized.

In order to empower the communities to monitor the water quality, States/ UTs have also 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 23.34 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.

To enable States/ UTs to monitor the quality of drinking water, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed where the water samples can be registered, the results of the tests can be uploaded, and shared with the concerned stakeholders. In case of contamination, an alert is generated, and the concern authority has to undertake remedial action.

As a result of the above-mentioned efforts, as reported by States/UTs, since the launch of JJM, year-wise, testing of water quality samples in the laboratories has increased from around 39.15 lakh samples in 2018-19 to more than 62 lakh samples in 2022-23. Similarly, testing of water quality using FTKs has increased from around 11.01 lakh samples in 2018-19 to 1.07 crore water samples during 2022-23. During 2023-24, as on 05.12.2023, 49.53 lakh samples in labs and 80.94 lakh samples using FTKs have been tested for drinking water quality through the WQMIS portal.
