

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 698
ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

URANIUM CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER

698 SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a study to map areas with uranium contaminated ground water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial action plan being prepared by the Government in Uranium contaminated areas;
- (d) whether uranium mining project of UCIL at Tummalapalle has caused groundwater pollution and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has paid adequate compensation for damage caused to borewells and crops due to uranium at Tummalapalle; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Water being State subject, study on groundwater quality and making available safe water to public falls under States' mandate. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has carried out a study to map areas with Uranium contaminated ground water during 2019. As per this study, the occurrence of Uranium in ground water beyond the BIS permissible limits (0.03 mg/l) of water was observed in around 409 groundwater samples against 14,377 samples analysed by the CGWB in around 18 States.

(c) Water being a State subject, initiatives for water management, including its quality is primarily the responsibility of the States. The data generated by CGWB has been shared with respective State Governments for taking suitable remedial action. Further, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal since August, 2019 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. In addition, under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including heavy metals and while planning for potable water supply to household through tap connection, priority is to be given to quality-affected habitations.

(d) As per Department of Atomic Energy (DoAE), hydrogeological and stable isotope tracer investigations carried out in the groundwater around the Tummalapalle uranium mining project have confirmed that there is no association between uranium mining industry and elevated uranium levels in ground water. The Uranium occurrence is natural which has been confirmed from the investigations.

(e) & (f) As per DoAE, it has been established by the scientific investigations that no damage is caused to borewells and crops due to UCIL operations at Tummalapalle. Hence, there is no question of payment of any compensation in this regard.
