

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 2792
ANSWERED ON – 08/08/2024

ARSENIC CONTAMINATION

2792. DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- a) the steps taken by the Government to collect data of people affected by arsenic, fluoride, iron salinity and Nitrate contaminated water in the country so far, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, district-wise;
- b) the number of households that are consuming arsenic or fluoride-contaminated drinking water, State and district-wise; and
- c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide safe drinking water in areas having arsenic, fluoride contaminated drinking water in various States of the country including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI VEERANNA SOMANNA)

(a) to (c) Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country. Drinking Water being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States including Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand by providing technical and financial assistance.

The Department has developed a web based integrated management information system (JJM-IMIS) to capture the data of water quality affected habitations, where States/UTs provide status of habitation that have contamination in their drinking water sources.

Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. While allocating the funds to States/ UTs in a particular financial year, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity and Nitrate. Under JJM, contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas is monitored on habitation wise. The State-wise number of habitations affected with Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity and Nitrate as reported by States on JJM-IMIS, as on date, is **annexed**.

As reported by States/ UTs, as on date, there are 316 Arsenic and 265 Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country that are yet to be provided piped potable water. Provision of safe drinking water for cooking and drinking requirements has been made in all these 316 Arsenic-affected and 265 Fluoride-affected habitations through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs).

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards are adopted as benchmarks for ensuring the quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes. As per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities inter alia which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

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, as on date, there are 2,165 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.

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 at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, as reported by States/UTs on WQMIS, as on date, more than 24.64 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.

A 'Citizen Corner' was also developed on the JJM Dashboard. The corner included display of water quality test results in the public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas

Annex referred in the reply to Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 2792 for reply on 08.08.2024

State-wise number of Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity and Nitrate affected habitations

(as on 05.08.2024)

S. No.	State	Number of quality-affected habitations						
		Fluoride		Arsenic		Iron	Salinity	Nitrate
		Total	Covered with CWPP	Total	Covered with CWPP			
1.	Assam	-	-	-	-	2,465	-	-
2.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	51	-	-
3.	Jharkhand	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Kerala	1	1	-	-	55	16	7
5.	Odisha	18	18	-	-	915	9	5
6.	Punjab	119	119	258	258	-	-	11
7.	Rajasthan	89	89	-	-	4	7,927	382
8.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	170	-	-
9.	West Bengal	37	37	58	58	-	-	-
Total		265	265	316	316	3,660	7,952	405

Source: JJM-IMIS