

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3274

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

INITIATIVES TAKEN TO MITIGATE GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION

3274. SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL

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

- (a) the extent to which the Government's initiatives have been effective in reducing groundwater contamination in the country, particularly in Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to assess the community participation and private sector partnerships to improve groundwater quality management; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof in regard to Durg Parliamentary Constituency of Chhattisgarh, district-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Water is a state subject and the responsibility of ground water management, including taking initiatives for improving ground water quality and mitigate the contamination issue, lies primarily with the state governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various centrally sponsored schemes.

However, the Central Government in this direction has taken several steps and some of the important ones are regular sharing of ground water quality data available with CGWB through Yearbooks, Half-yearly Bulletins and fortnightly Alerts etc.; Taking up special studies in ground water quality affected areas; Taking up construction of Arsenic safe wells by CGWB in the affected areas using the innovative cement sealing technology; Implementing comprehensive pollution control program by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) by setting industry specific discharge standards, making Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) mandatory for Industries, Online continuous monitoring of Discharge etc.

Moreover, 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 in the country, wherein Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery.

As a result of all these cumulative efforts, it is reported that from August 2019 to March 2025 the number of habitations affected in the country by two major contaminants viz. Arsenic & Fluoride, have declined from 14,020 to 314 and from 7,996 to 251 respectively. These remaining habitations have also been

provided clean & safe drinking water through Community Water Purifier Plants (CWPPs). Further, in Chhattisgarh, reportedly, there were 184 quality affected habitations (159 by Fluoride & 25 by Heavy metals) as on 01/04/2022 and as on date all of them have been covered under JJM scheme.

(b) & (c) The central government has taken several important steps to ensure large scale community and private sector participation for turning ground water management into a truly peoples' movement. The notable among them are:

- i. Central Ground Water Board organizes various Public Interaction Programs (PIP), Mass Awareness Programs (MAP), Tier II and Tier –III programmes on local ground water issues, including educating the public about the impacts of water contamination and promoting sustainable practices to maintain water quality. Total of 6 PIPs and one Tier-II training programme have been conducted in the Durg constituency area so far.
- ii. Under JJM, with a view to involve community at large and to spread awareness regarding water quality, five persons, preferably women, are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs). Thus far, more than 24 lakh women have been trained across the country, with around 2,400 in Durg district and 3,475 in Bemetara district.
- iii. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 with active community involvement. Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been set up under Abhiyan in various districts of the country for interacting with local community and dissemination of water related knowledge. 31 JSKs have been set up in Chhattisgarh so far, including one each in Durg and Bemetara.
- iv. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which marks the government's unwavering resolve to make water conservation a national priority. The initiative emphasizes the importance of Jan Bhagidari or peoples' participation in water conservation with the aim to have a special focus on the construction of artificial recharge structures/borewell recharge shafts, which will increase storage capacity & help to augment groundwater recharge. Thus far, a total of 2.55 lakh ground water recharge structures have been constructed in Chhattisgarh, with 4,998 structures in Durg district and 2,510 in Bemetara district.
- v. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti and its organizations, work with a very large number of Non-Governmental Organizations and academic institutions to promote public awareness and for enhancing water resource management in the country.
