

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1101

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

GROUNDWATER POLLUTION AND CONTAMINATION

†1101. SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:

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

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any district-wise remedial action plan to tackle groundwater pollution in Korba and other industrial districts on the basis of the Central Ground Water Board's Annual Report 2024 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of habitations covered under the Jal Jeevan Mission where the level of nitrate and other harmful elements in groundwater is forty per cent more than the prescribed limit; and
- (c) whether any special guidelines have been issued to ensure drinking water supply in such areas through alternative safe water sources or treatment systems and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data on a regional scale throughout the country as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies as per its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

As per the latest Annual Groundwater Quality Report, 2025, in Korba district, out of 12 samples analyzed, exceedances of permissible limits were observed for Nitrate at 01 location and for Fluoride at 02 locations. Further, the concentrations of the assessed heavy metals, namely Arsenic (As), Uranium (U), Copper (Cu) and Zinc (Zn), were observed to be within permissible limits.

CGWB has recommended various remedial measures for ground water contamination caused by different types of contaminants which are publicized through Annual Ground Water Quality Reports, NAQIM study reports, advisories to state/district administrations and through its training and public interaction programmes. CGWB has also developed the techniques for constructing Arsenic and Fluoride safe wells which have been shared with state governments for replication and upscaling.

(b) & (c) Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented by the Government of India in partnership with States since 2019 to provide safe drinking water to every rural household of the country. The scheme covers the entire country and not just quality affected areas. Following measures have been taken under JJM to facilitate action on water quality aspects at state level:-

- Water safety has been one of the key priorities under the JJM since its inception. Under the JJM, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery.
- 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 of bulk water transfer based, preferably, on surface water sources or alternative safe ground water sources for the villages with water quality issue.
- To facilitate implementation of the above said Framework, around 2870 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country. Besides this, five persons, preferably women are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs).
- States/ UTs have also been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) as an interim measure, especially in quality affected habitations, to provide potable drinking water to every household.

As a result of cumulative efforts of the government and other stakeholders in addressing water contamination issue, there has been a significant reduction in number of habitations affected by major contaminants like Nitrate, Arsenic & Fluoride. As reported by the states, there were 515 Nitrate affected habitations in the country as on April 2022 out of which 112 have been covered under the scheme so far, providing safe drinking water. Further, from August 2019 to January 2026, the number of Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations in the country have declined from 14,020 to 314 and from 7,996 to 245 respectively. These remaining habitations have also been provided clean, & safe drinking water through Community Water Purifier Plants (CWPPs).
