

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2273
TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026
CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY AT INDORE**

NO. 2273. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the recent incident of supply of contaminated drinking water at Indore;**
- (b) the number of deaths reported due to the said incident;**
- (c) the total number of residents affected by illness as a result of consumption of contaminated water;**
- (d) the reasons behind the occurrence of such contamination in the drinking water supply;**
- (e) whether the Government has any proper mechanism in place to monitor and check the quality of drinking water being supplied across the country and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) whether responsibility for the said incident has been fixed on any official or bureaucrat and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (e): Water is a State subject. The State Governments are responsible for monitoring, enforcement, and corrective action for drinking water safety. The operation, maintenance and replacement of old deteriorated pipelines is the responsibility of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ parastatals. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States through various schemes/ Missions such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0 for approved infrastructure projects.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that occurrence of drinking water contamination has been reported from Indore Municipal Corporation. Immediately upon receiving information on 28.12.2025 regarding incidents of vomiting and diarrhoea in Bhagirath Pura area, the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) along with the Health

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Department and Public Health Engineering Department initiated a joint and prompt response. First and foremost, all sick patients were attended to and the ones who were serious, were hospitalized in super-specialty Medical College and Private Hospital. Not so sick were attended to by Health and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) workers with door-to-door survey and distribution of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) packets and Chlorine tablets for Water disinfection. Water Supply through pipelines and borewells were completely stopped and water tankers were forced into service. Samples were taken from multiple supply points at user end to ascertain the type of contamination and sent to National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited labs. Immediate remedial action like identifications of leakages, possibility of inter mixing of contaminated water was taken up and repair works started.

As informed by the State, 16 deaths have been verified by the Chief Medical & Health Officer/ Death Audit Committee of MGM Medical College, Indore. The State Government has provided ex-gratia financial assistance to the families of the deceased as per prevailing State norms. ₹40 lakh compensation was given to the deceased from Bhagirath Pura. Medical treatment to affected persons was provided free of cost in Government/ Private hospitals. In Bhagirath Pura, 35,421 households were surveyed by health officials in which 1,64,942 people were screened. 454 patients were admitted to hospital out of which 441 have been discharged. AIIMS Bhopal experts visited Indore on 03.01.2026 and shared protocol regarding the treatment during meetings and 24X7 medical facility has been ensured by the State.

The matter is sub judice vide Writ Petition no. 247 of 2026 and others in the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Indore. Hon'ble High Court in their order dated 27.01.2026 appointed Justice Sushil Kumar Gupta, former Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court, a one-man commission of inquiry into the issues relating to water contamination in Bhagirath Pura, Indore. The terms of reference of the Commission include submission of report on the cause of contamination and provide its inputs on public health on matters such as number of actual deaths of affected residents on account of contaminated water, nature of disease reported, adequacy of medical response and preventive measures, immediate steps required to ensure safe drinking water, long-term infrastructural and monitoring reforms, and identification and fixing responsibility upon the officers and officials found prima facie responsible for the Bhagirathpura water contamination incident and suggest guidelines for compensation to affected residents, particularly vulnerable sections.

The State Government has also informed that Standard Operating Procedures have been issued to Urban Local Bodies to avoid contamination of water. About 14,181 leakages were detected so far out of which 12,634 leakages have been repaired. Out of 3,298 Over Head Tanks in the State, 3,109 have been cleaned. Similarly, out of 21,215 tubewells, 179 were found polluted and 86 tubewells were closed for use. Regular testing of quality of water is ensured. 656 water samples were found fail out of 80,976 samples, while action was taken at 588 points where pollution was detected. Issues of contamination of water were resolved through 2,821 Jal Sunwai.

A Statewide Clean Water Campaign “Swacchh Jal Abhiyaan” has been launched from January 10, 2026 with the objective of ensuring the quality of drinking water supplied to citizens in urban and rural areas of the State, building public trust in the water supply system, etc.

Under AMRUT/ AMRUT 2.0, the States/ UTs are empowered to select, appraise, prioritise and implement the projects as per their local requirements including augmentation/ rehabilitation of infrastructure as per Mission guidelines. Under AMRUT 2.0, cities have prepared City Water Balance Plans (CWBP), which include as-is assessment of water supply systems which help cities/ ULBs to identify vulnerabilities and prioritise system-strengthening measures.

To ensure safe drinking water supply to the urban households, AMRUT/AMRUT 2.0 supports, rehabilitation and upgradation of water supply network and creation/augmentation of Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) plants. Under AMRUT, a total of 73,520 km of water supply pipeline network has been laid or replaced. Under AMRUT 2.0, about 1.26 lakh km of water supply network has been approved in the sanctioned projects, of which 22,332 km pertains to replacement of the existing water supply network. To provide drinkable water from taps under AMRUT 2.0, 408 round the clock projects (24x7) covering 1152 District Metered Area (DMAs) and benefitting around 16.72 lakh households have been approved to mitigate contaminations in intermittent water supply systems. So far, 6140 Million Litre per Day (MLD) of WTP capacity has been approved under AMRUT, of which, 5,330 MLD WTP capacity has been created. Under AMRUT 2.0, 11,393 MLD WTP capacity has been approved so far. These treatment plants are generally equipped with inhouse lab facilities or have tie up with the Labs for regular water quality testing.

To strengthen monitoring system AMRUT 2.0 advocates incorporation of smart components in water supply schemes, including online water quality sensors, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

(SCADA) systems, GIS-based asset mapping, bulk and consumer metering, and AI/IoT-based monitoring solutions. Under AMRUT, 258 water supply schemes have been implemented with SCADA. Under AMRUT 2.0, 1,415 water supply projects have provision for SCADA system. In addition, under AMRUT Mitra initiative, women Self Help Groups are engaged by ULBs for collection of water quality testing at field level.

Further for safe disposal of sewage in urban areas, under AMRUT, a total of 889 sewerage and septage management projects amounting to ₹34,467 crore have been grounded. Through these projects, about 6,299 MLD of sewage treatment capacity has been approved. Of this, 4,843 MLD of sewage treatment capacity (new/augmented) has been created, out of which 1,437 MLD capacity has been developed for recycle and reuse of treated waste water. Under AMRUT 2.0, 583 sewerage/septage projects worth ₹66117.69 crore have been approved by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) so far. Approved projects cover 6,649 MLD sewage treatment capacity (new/augmentation) of which 1,931 MLD sewage treatment capacity is for recycle/reuse.

Drinking water quality arrangement in urban areas is governed by standards and guidelines issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) primarily IS 10500: Drinking Water - Specification. Water quality testing for compliance and regulatory reporting should be conducted in NABL accredited laboratories conforming to ISO/IEC 7025. The Ministry has also published Manual on Water Supply and Treatment Systems (Drink from Tap) in March 2024 (<https://mohua.gov.in/publication/manual-on-water-supply-and-treatment-systems---drink-from-tap---march-2024.php>), for reference by the States/ ULBs for designing and implementation of the water supply projects. The manual has a Chapter on “Drinking water quality monitoring and surveillance”, which outlines the standard procedures for various components of drinking water quality monitoring and surveillance and sanitary surveillance (inspection) activities to be undertaken by Urban Water Service Providers.

(f): The State Government has informed that disciplinary action has been taken against the officers responsible for lapses in discharge of duties in connection with the Indore incident. The Commissioner, IMC and the Additional Commissioner & in-charge of Drinking Water Supply were transferred. The Executive Engineer (Narmada) has been placed under suspension for serious lapse in discharge of duties related to the incident. The Assistant Engineer, Zone No. 04, and Zonal Officer, Zone No. 04, Ward No. 11, were placed under suspension for carelessness, negligence, and disobedience of orders of senior officers, and departmental inquiries have been initiated against them. Muster Sub-Engineer, Zone No. 04, Ward No. 11 has been relieved from duty (terminated), his remuneration was stopped, and his employment ID was permanently locked.