

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2811
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022

ARSENIC AND FLUORIDE CONTAMINATION IN DRINKING WATER

2811. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether excessive quantity of Arsenic/other chemicals has been found in drinking water in various parts of the country including Assam and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the vulnerability of health hazards from Arsenic and Fluoride contaminated water in various parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details of such pockets identified so far; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to check such health hazards and to provide safe drinking water in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) As reported by States/ UTs, State-wise details of habitations having contaminants, including Arsenic and Fluoride, in drinking water sources beyond permissible limit are **annexed**.

(b) to (d) 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 by 2024, since August, 2019, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

Under JJM, while planning for potable water supply to household through tap water connection, priority is to be given to quality-affected habitations. Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source may take time, purely as an interim measure, States/ UTs have been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) especially in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations to provide potable water to every household at the rate of 8–10 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements. Out of 1,657 rural habitations with reported Arsenic contamination beyond permissible limit in drinking water sources, CWPPs have been installed in 521 habitations to provide potable drinking water. Similarly, out of 908 habitations reported to have Fluoride contaminations beyond permissible limits in drinking water sources, CWPPs have been installed in 433 habitations to provide potable drinking water.

National Centre of Disease Control, an organisation under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that technical guidelines for “Detection, Prevention and Management of Arsenicosis in India” and revised guidelines for the “National Program for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis” have been shared with the States affected by Arsenicosis and Fluorosis, respectively. IEC material for awareness of disease symptoms and prevention of Arsenicosis and Fluorosis have also been shared with the affected states.

Annex

Annex referred in the reply to Rajya Sabha unstarred Question No. 2811 due for reply on 28.03.2022

State-wise number of habitations having contamination in drinking water sources beyond permissible limit and details of CWPPs installed in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations

S. No.	State/ UT	Number of quality-affected habitations							
		Fluoride	CWPP installed	Arsenic	CWPP installed	Iron	Salinity	Nitrate	Heavy metals
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82	82	-	-	-	6	1	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	224	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	32	32	10,361	-	-	3
4.	Bihar	1	-	11	2	450	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	154	46	-	-	30	-	-	-
6.	Jharkhand	48	47	1	1	59	-	-	-
7.	Kerala	5	-	-	-	61	18	8	-
8.	Madhya Pradesh	37	2	-	-	16	5	2	-
9.	Maharashtra	3	-	-	-	6	34	7	-
10.	Odisha	45	-	-	-	2,031	30	6	-
11.	Punjab	180	11	560	94	7	-	19	112
12.	Rajasthan	188	151	-	-	4	9,773	463	-
13.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	1,052	-	-	-
14.	Uttar Pradesh	38	38	107	107	281	79	10	-
15.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
16.	West Bengal	127	56	946	285	1,630	72	-	67
Total		908	433	1,657	521	16,214	10,017	518	182

Source: JJM-IMIS