

LAL KATARIA): (a) As reported by the States/UTs in IMIS Department as on 18.03.2020, drinking water sources in 50,203 habitations are affected by chemical contaminants like Arsenic, Fluoride, Iron, Salinity, Nitrate and Heavy Metals in the country.

(b) and (c) Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance through the centrally sponsored scheme Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) which aims at providing potable water to every rural household with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) at service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) by 2024. Powers to plan, approve, and implement rural drinking water supply schemes are vested with States.

While allocating funds under JJM, 10% weightage has been given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including heavy metals. The funds provided to the States under JJM can be utilized for taking up schemes in water quality-affected areas on priority.

In March 2016, with the recommendation of NITI Aayog, an amount of ₹ 1,000 crore was released to various Arsenic and Fluoride affected States for installation of community water purification plants and commissioning of piped water supply schemes.

Further, in March 2017, National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) was launched as a part of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which has now been subsumed under Jal Jeevan Mission, to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 Arsenic/ Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country by March, 2021.

#### **Financial support to drinking water projects**

3270. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have sought relaxation in the Central norms, for financial support to drinking water supply projects in the habitations affected by Fluoride and Salinity, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether some States have requested that Central assistance should be provided in Totality in order to create basic infrastructure for the polluted water regions, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Few States like Rajasthan had requested for relaxation in fund sharing pattern so as to reduce the financial burden on the State in the form of State share in the rural water supply projects catering to water quality-affected habitations. Further, several States have been requesting for increased central assistance for creating drinking water infrastructure in various fora at different points of time.

Keeping all these in view, Government of India, in partnership with the States, has launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to enable every rural household in the country to have potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular basis through Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024 with an outlay of ₹ 3.60 lakh Crore. Demands raised by States affected with water quality issues, including Fluoride and salinity, were considered while firming up the modalities of implementation of the JJM and accordingly, while allocating fund among States/ UTs under JJM, 10% weightage is given to proportion of the population residing in water quality-affected areas. Further, States have been advised to accord priority to water quality-affected habitations while implementing piped water supply schemes under JJM.

Further, in March 2017, to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 Arsenic/ Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country, National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) was launched, which has now been subsumed under Jal Jeevan Mission and as on 19.03.2020, ₹ 3,940.34 Crore has been provided to Arsenic and Fluoride affected States.

#### **Revised estimates of Polavaram project**

3271. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Andhra Pradesh Government to prepare Revised Cost Estimates (RCEs) of Polavaram at two price levels *i.e.*, 2013-14 and at current price level;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with reasons for preparing RCEs at two price levels;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Central Water Commission (CWC) and Advisory Committee of the Ministry has approved the RCEs at two price levels and sent it to Government;