

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1695
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13/12/2021

ARSENIC AFFECTED AREAS

1695. LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that all those living in areas affected by Arsenic contaminated water get safe drinking water and are not affected by water-borne diseases;
- (b) the number of districts in States/ Union Territories of the country where these problems exist and the details of districts/ places identified by Government in this connection; and
- (c) the reasons for presence of Arsenic in the water and the details of the current status of the decision taken earlier by Government to remove this problem?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) As informed by Central Ground Water Board, Arsenic contamination is understood to be of geogenic origin, resulting from release of Arsenic from soil/ aquifer material under conditions conducive to its dissolution from solid phase to liquid phase. To make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household in the country including Arsenic-affected habitations by 2024, since August, 2019, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is being implemented in partnership with States.

Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants which *inter alia* includes Arsenic. Under JJM, while planning for potable tap water supply to households, priority is given to quality-affected habitations.

As reported by States, as on date, State-wise number of habitations reported to have Arsenic contamination in drinking water sources, is **annexed**.

To provide potable tap water in villages with water quality issues and non-availability of suitable surface water source in nearby areas, under Jal Jeevan Mission, provisions have been made to enable States/ UTs to consider bulk water transfer from safe surface water source(s) and take up water distribution network. Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on safe surface water source takes 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 litres per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements.

Annex referred in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1695 due for reply on 13.12.2021.

Detail of Arsenic-affected habitations

(as on 9.12.2021)

S.No.	State	Number of Arsenic-affected Habitations	Number of districts
1.	Assam	47	3
2.	Bihar	11	3
3.	Jharkhand	1	1
4.	Punjab	570	13
5.	Uttar Pradesh	107	10
6.	West Bengal	1,066	7
	Total	1,802	37

Source: JJM-IMIS