GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1697

ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

CONTAMINATION OF ARSENIC AND HEAVY METALS IN GROUNDWATER

1697 SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Arsenic and heavy metals are found in groundwater across the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of number of habitations receiving contaminated water in the country; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce contamination of water in the country including Uttar Pradesh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU**)**

(a) Yes, Sir. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data on a regional scale during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring throughout the country. These studies indicate the occurrence of Arsenic, and Heavy Metals beyond the BIS permissible limits in isolated pockets in certain parts of the country. State-wise details in this regard are given at **Annexure-I.**

(b) The details of habitations affected with contamination, including Arsenic and Heavy Metals, in drinking water sources in rural areas are given at **Annexure-II**.

(c) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management, including making available potable water to general public is primarily States' responsibility. However, various steps have been taken by the Central Government in this regard in the country. Some of them are given at succeeding paras.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) is implementing the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in the country including Uttar Pradesh to prevent and control pollution in water.

Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply of prescribed quality and on regular & long term basis to every rural household in the country including Uttar Pradesh by 2024. Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to house-holds, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. While allocating the funds to States/ UTs in a particular financial year, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.

Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply schemes 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) in such 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.

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation had launched a National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) on 22nd March, 2017 as a part of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), which has now been subsumed under JJM, to provide safe drinking water to 27,544 arsenic/fluoride affected rural habitations in the country.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs through Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is supplementing the efforts of State Government including Uttar Pradesh to provide safe and clean drinking water in urban areas. Further, AMRUT- 2.0 was launched on 01st October 2021 for the period of 05 years (FY 2021-22 to 2025-26), with the objective of providing universal coverage of water supply through functional household tap connection in all statutory towns in the country.

Guidelines have been notified by Government of India on 24 September 2020 for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability. The guidelines include suitable provisions on measures to be adopted to control groundwater pollution.

Further, the quality of groundwater can be improved to some extent if concerted efforts are made to improve the groundwater resources through appropriate groundwater recharge/rainwater harvesting. Government of India has taken a number of initiatives in this direction which can be seen at URL: http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1697 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 01.08.2022 REGARDING "CONTAMINATION OF ARSENIC AND HEAVY METALS IN GROUNDWATER".

States Wise Number of Partly Affected Districts with different Contaminants in Ground Water of India

S.No.	State/ UT	Arsenic (above 0.01 mg/l)	Iron (above 1mg/l)	Lead (above 0.01 mg/l)	Cadmium (above 0.003 mg/l)	Chromium (above 0.05 mg/l)	Uranium (above 0.03 mg/l)
1	Andhra Pradesh	7	12	2		1	8
2	Telangana	1	9	4	1	1	6
3	Assam	20	22	5		1	
4	Arunachal Pradesh		5				
5	Bihar	27	35	6			9
6	Chhattisgarh	4	22	5	1	1	4
7	Delhi	3	1	3	2	5	4
8	Goa		2			1	
9	Gujarat	12	11	1			4
10	Haryana	16	19	17	8	3	18
11	Himachal Pradesh	1	5				1
12	Jammu &Kashmir	3	10	3	1	1	
13	Jharkhand	2	23	25			4
14	Karnataka	3	22	1		7	8
15	Kerala	1	15	4		1	
16	Madhya Pradesh	9	47	16	2		10
17	Maharashtra		24	20	1		3
18	Manipur	2	4				
19	Meghalaya		7				
20	Nagaland		5				
21	Odisha	5	31	4		2	4
22	Punjab	16	13	10	8	10	16
23	Rajasthan	10	33	14			21
24	Tamil Nadu	12	16	6	1	7	10
25	Tripura	3	8				
26	**Uttar Pradesh**	**36**	**58**	**16**	**2**	**17**	**21**
27	Uttarakhand	3	8	7		1	
28	West Bengal	11	21	7	2	3	1
29	Andaman & Nicobar		3				
30	Daman & Diu	1					
31	Puducherry	1					
	Total	**Parts of 209 districts in 25 states & UTs**	**Parts of 491districts in 29 states & UTs**	**Pb in parts of 176 districts in 21 states**	**Cd in parts of 29 districts in 11states**	**Cr in parts of 62 districts in 16 states**	**U in parts of 152 districts in 18 states**

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1697 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 01.08.2022 REGARDING "CONTAMINATION OF ARSENIC AND HEAVY METALS IN GROUNDWATER".

State/UT-wise details of habitations affected with contamination in drinking water sources
(as on 27-7-2022)

S.No	State Name	No. of quality-affected habitation					
		Fluoride	**Arsenic**	**Iron**	**Salinity**	**Nitrate**	**Heavy Metals**
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	224	-	-	-
2.	Assam	-	7	10,225	-	-	3
3.	Bihar	1	11	449	-	-	-
4.	Chhattisgarh	168	-	25	-	-	-
5.	Jharkhand	2	-	57	-	-	-
6.	Kerala	5	-	61	18	8	-
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	-	4	-	-
8.	Maharashtra	3	-	6	31	6	-
9.	Odisha	41	-	1972	26	6	-
10.	Punjab	182	556	7	-	23	103
11.	Rajasthan	188	-	4	9,771	463	-
12.	Tripura	-	-	748	-	-	-
13.	**Uttar Pradesh**	**38**	**107**	**281**	**79**	**10**	**-**
14.	Uttarakhand	-	-	2	-	1	-
15.	West Bengal	42	133	18	1	-	5
	Total	**671**	**814**	**14,079**	**9,930**	**517**	**111**

Source: JJM-IMIS