

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2484
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/08/2022

SOLUTION FOR ARSENIC CONTAMINATION IN DRINKING WATER IN PUNJAB.

2484. SHRI VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified any permanent solution for Arsenic contamination in drinking water of Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether Government proposes to set up a captive Research and Development wing Government to cope with Arsenic contamination in ground and drinking water in view of the large number of populations being affected by Arsenic contamination in drinking water and getting affected by cancer; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

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

Since, planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe 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 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, States/ UTs, including Punjab, have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes of bulk water transfer based on safe water sources such as surface water sources or alternative safe ground water sources for the villages with water quality issues including Arsenic.

National Centre for Drinking Water, Sanitation and Quality (NCDWSQ) has been set up at Kolkata, West Bengal with the aim, inter alia, to work in the area of identification, mitigation and management of drinking water quality related problems in India including Arsenic contaminations.
