

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 406
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

AREAS AFFECTED BY ARSENIC CONTAMINATED WATER

406. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:
Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

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 overcome this problem?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Arsenic contamination in ground water 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.

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

Under Jal Jeevan Mission, States/ UTs 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.

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.

Under JJM, contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas is monitored on habitation wise. As reported by States/ UTs, as on date, details of habitations affected with arsenic contamination in drinking water sources is **annexed**.

Annex referred to in the reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 406 answered on 06.02.2023

State-wise number of Arsenic-affected habitations
(As on 02.02.2023)

S. No.	State	Number of Arsenic-affected habitations	Covered with short term measures	Remaining Arsenic-affected habitations	
				No. of habitations	Number of districts
1.	Punjab	445	419	26	2
2.	Uttar Pradesh	107	107	-	-
3.	West Bengal	132	132	-	-

Source: JJM-IMIS
