

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 105

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

**STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ARSENIC AND FLUORIDE CONTAMINATED
WATER**

105#. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that arsenic and fluoride levels in ground water have increased in the country;
- (b) the States where the elements of arsenic and fluoride are present in water; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the impact of such arsenic and fluoride contamination of water during the last three years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. These studies indicate the occurrence of Arsenic and Fluoride in ground water beyond permissible limits (as per BIS) for human consumption in isolated pockets in various States / UTs. Arsenic has been reported in parts of 230 districts in 25 States and in parts of 469 districts in 27 states fluoride contamination is found. The ground water contamination reported by CGWB is mostly geogenic in nature and does not show significant change over the years which means these constituents are already in the rock or soil matrix.

(b) The states where the elements of Arsenic and Fluoride are present in water are given in **Annexure**.

(c) Water being a state subject, the responsibility of ground water management, including taking initiatives for improving ground water quality and mitigate the contamination issue, lies primarily with the state governments. However, several steps have also been taken by the Central Government in this regard. Some of them are given at succeeding paras.

- i. CGWB is successfully constructing Arsenic free wells in arsenic affected areas using the cement sealing technology for tapping contamination free aquifers and also providing technical assistance to state departments in Fluoride mitigation.
- ii. 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 to prevent and control pollution in water.

- iii. 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. 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 liter per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements.
- iv. 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.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 105 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 04.12.2023 REGARDING “STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ARSENIC AND FLUORIDE CONTAMINATED WATER”.

Arsenic Affected States (Partly affected): Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Daman & Diu, West Bengal, Puducherry (**Total 25 States & UTs**).

Fluoride Affected States (Partly affected): Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Daman & Diu (**Total 27 States & UTs**).
