

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1527
ANSWERED ON – 05/08/2024

QUALITY OF WATER SUPPLY BY JAL JEEVAN MISSION

1527 # MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages across the country where water is being supplied to every household (Har Ghar Jal) under Jal Jeevan Mission;
- (b) the number of settlements which were affected with arsenic and fluoride contamination at the onset of Jal Jeevan Mission Yojana and the situation at present ; and
- (c) the efforts being made by Government to monitor the quality of water?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

(a) Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country. Drinking Water being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August 2019, 3.23 Crore (17%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 31.07.2024, around 11.80 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 31.07.2024, out of 19.32 Crore rural households, in 5.83 lakh villages, in the country, more than 15.03 Crore (77.81%) households spread in around 5.80 lakh villages, are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. Further, as on 31.07.2024 around 2.31 lakh villages are reported as “Har Ghar Jal”.

(b) & (c) Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards’ BIS:10500 standards are adopted as benchmarks for ensuring the quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes. Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, 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 including Arsenic and Fluoride.

Under JJM, contamination in drinking water sources in rural areas is monitored on habitation wise. Since launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, the number of Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations has reduced over the years. As reported by States/ UTs, as on 31.07.2024, there are 316 Arsenic and 265 Fluoride affected rural habitations in the country. Provision of potable drinking water for cooking and drinking requirements has been made in all these remaining 316 Arsenic-affected and 265 Fluoride-affected habitations through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs). The year-wise number of Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations as reported by States/ UTs on JJM-IMIS is given below:

Contaminant	No. of Arsenic/ Fluoride affected habitations as on						
	01.04.2019	01.04.2020	01.04.2021	01.04.2022	01.04.2023	01.04.2024	31.07.2024
Arsenic	14,020	4,568	1,717	800	507	378	316
Fluoride	7,996	5,796	1,021	638	393	348	265

Source: JJM-IMIS

As per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities inter alia which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed. The State-wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS are available in public domain and can be accessed at:

<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/WQMIS/Main/report>

As reported by States/UTs, so far 2,163 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, regional, district, sub-division and/or block level, have been set up in the country. To encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate.

A ‘Citizen Corner’ was also developed on the JJM Dashboard. The corner included display of water quality test results in the public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas.

In order to empower the communities to monitor the water quality States/ UTs have also been advised to identify and train 5 persons, preferably women, in every village to conduct water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, as reported by States/UTs on WQMIS, as on date, more than 24.61 lakh women have been trained for testing water using FTKs.
