

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.720

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

ERADICATION OF ARSENIC IN GROUNDWATER

720. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR

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

- (a) the details of fund allocated, released and utilized for eradication of Arsenic in groundwater during 2024-25 till 30th November, 2024, State-wise; and
- (b) the efforts being made/ schemes being run by Government for eradication of Arsenic in food chain and crops through groundwater?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(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. Still the funds are not released separately for eradication of Arsenic in ground and drinking water. As per the information available on the JJM dashboard, it is seen that during 2024-25 (up to the month of November) total funds to the tune of Rs. 54,073.96 cr (both central & state share) were released, out of which the total expenditure amount was Rs. 49,553.28 cr. The State/ UT-wise details of funds allocated, released, and utilized for provision of safe and potable water through taps to households including those affected by Arsenic during 2024-25, till November 2024, are provided in the **Annexure**.

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme (GWMR) covering several aspects of ground water management including the quality aspect. Under this scheme, CGWB takes up regular quality monitoring of ground water throughout the country, special studies on ground water quality in identified priority areas and also constructs arsenic free wells in arsenic affected areas using its innovative cement sealing technology. CGWB has so far constructed 525 exploratory wells tapping arsenic safe aquifers under NAQUIM programme including 40 in Bihar, 191 in West Bengal and 294 in Uttar Pradesh. The information regarding ground water quality and other technologies developed by it for mitigation of contamination are shared by CGWB with state and district administrations for taking up suitable field interventions. The data is also made available in public domain through its web site and disseminated to the masses through public interaction programmes. However, no separate funds are allocated for only Arsenic eradication, as the expenditure is incurred from the combined budget of GWMR scheme.

Further, water safety has been one of the key priorities under the JJM since its inception. States are advised to strictly ensure supply of safe drinking water as per these norms. Following measures have been taken under JJM to facilitate action on water quality aspects at state level :-

- i. While allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants.
- ii. The “Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework” was devised and disseminated to states in October 2021.
- iii. To facilitate implementation of the above said Framework, more than 2000 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country. Besides this, five persons, preferably women are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs).
- iv. 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.
- v. 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 including Arsenic & Fluoride.
- vi. Under JJM, while planning for potable water supply to household through tap water connection, priority is given to quality-affected habitations. 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.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 720 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 02.12.2024 REGARDING “ERADICATION OF ARSENIC IN GROUNDWATER”.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission total funds allocated, released and utilized for FY 2024-25 up to November 2024

*in Crores

| S.N. | State | Opening Balance (Central Share) | Central Allocation | Central Share Release Up to Month November 2024 | State Share Release | Total Expenditure Up to Month November 2024 |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 4.97 | 2.98 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 339.88 | 2,520.97 | 0 | 775.05 | 562.45 |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | 26.84 | 217.82 | 65.35 | 0.17 | 22.38 |
| 4 | Assam | 780.58 | 5,198.78 | 2,059.63 | 364.15 | 2,653.37 |
| 5 | Bihar | 54.95 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Chhattisgarh | 521.03 | 1,277.27 | 191.59 | 1,881.57 | 508.9 |
| 7 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli And Daman & Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | Goa | 0.4 | 4.32 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9 | Gujarat | 947.97 | 2,420.14 | 0 | 1,248.35 | 1,683.26 |
| 10 | Haryana | 38.86 | 462.03 | 0 | 194.18 | 193.59 |
| 11 | Himachal Pradesh | 90.56 | 916.53 | 137.48 | 19.47 | 150.39 |
| 12 | Jammu & Kashmir | 660.69 | 2,112.86 | 633.86 | 145.38 | 1,015.47 |
| 13 | Jharkhand | 263.46 | 2,114.22 | 0 | 295.17 | 387.35 |
| 14 | Karnataka | 914.11 | 3,804.41 | 570.66 | 3,740.04 | 3,160.55 |
| 15 | Kerala | 106.45 | 1,949.36 | 974.68 | 957.71 | 1,574.61 |
| 16 | Ladakh | 65 | 624.78 | 93.72 | 0 | 35.04 |
| 17 | Lakshadweep | 29.06 | 0.75 | 0.38 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 | Madhya Pradesh | 91.39 | 4,044.70 | 2,622.35 | 2,621.54 | 4,966.50 |
| 19 | Maharashtra | 1,599.47 | 5,352.93 | 1,605.88 | 2,678.14 | 4,163.68 |
| 20 | Manipur | 44.93 | 0 | 0 | 1.12 | 25.77 |
| 21 | Meghalaya | 296.9 | 653.6 | 196.08 | 54.47 | 491.11 |
| 22 | Mizoram | 7.85 | 45.09 | 6.76 | 9.29 | 19.35 |
| 23 | Nagaland | 39.75 | 39.75 | 5.96 | 5.08 | 50.62 |
| 24 | Odisha | 484.23 | 2,455.94 | 368.39 | 782.46 | 1,011.01 |
| 25 | Puducherry | 0.01 | 12.58 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.01 |
| 26 | Punjab | 15.97 | 644.54 | 0 | 129.51 | 48.51 |
| 27 | Rajasthan | 786.95 | 11,061.46 | 1,659.22 | 1,620.00 | 3,035.69 |
| 28 | Sikkim | 11.92 | 124.5 | 18.67 | 13.04 | 26.59 |
| 29 | Tamil Nadu | 813.15 | 2,438.89 | 731.67 | 1,801.04 | 2,540.47 |
| 30 | Telangana | 26.06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Tripura | 111.1 | 736.75 | 221.03 | 30.14 | 316.22 |
| 32 | Uttar Pradesh | 851.83 | 12,621.95 | 6,310.98 | 9,291.65 | 15,395.27 |
| 33 | Uttarakhand | 232.51 | 1,016.80 | 508.4 | 0 | 245.27 |
| 34 | West Bengal | 953.19 | 5,049.98 | 2,524.99 | 3,907.50 | 5,269.85 |
| Total | | 11,212.02 | 69,926.68 | 21,507.73 | 32,566.23 | 49,553.28 |

*Source JJM Reports
