

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 84

ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

**ANNUAL GROUND WATER QUALITY REPORT**

84. # DR. DINESH SHARMA SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY  
SHRI BRIJ LAL SMT. REKHA SHARMA  
SHRI MADAN RATHORE SHRI NARHARI AMIN  
SMT. DARSHANA SINGH SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA  
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any emerging pollutants/contaminants have been identified in the 2024 report that require immediate attention;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the effectiveness of Government initiatives in reducing groundwater pollution;
- (d) whether there is any possibility of community participation and private sector partnership for improving groundwater quality management; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Annual Groundwater Quality Report 2024 prepared by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is based on the ground water sampling and analysis from 15,259 monitoring locations spread across the country. The major objective of the report is to study various water quality parameters like Electrical Conductivity(EC), Fluoride, Arsenic, heavy metals, Nitrate etc. in groundwater used for drinking and agriculture purposes. The report has found the presence of above contaminants beyond the prescribed limits for human consumption in isolated pockets of some States/UTs. Apart from that, no new emerging pollutants have been identified in the report.

(c) Water is a state subject and 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. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various centrally sponsored schemes.

However, the Central Government in this direction has taken several steps in this direction and some of the important ones are regular sharing of ground water quality data available with CGWB through

Yearbooks, Half-yearly Bulletins and fortnightly Alerts etc.; Taking up special studies in ground water quality affected areas; Taking up construction of Arsenic safe wells by CGWB in the affected areas using the innovative cement sealing technology; Implementing comprehensive pollution control program by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) by setting industry specific discharge standards, making Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) mandatory for Industries, Online continuous monitoring of Discharge etc.

Moreover, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, since August 2019, to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country, wherein Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery.

As a result of all these cumulative efforts, it is reported that from August 2019 to January 2025 the number of Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations in the country have declined from 14,020 to 314 and from 7,996 to 254 respectively. These remaining habitations have also been provided clean, & safe drinking water through Community Water Purifier Plants (CWPPs).

(d) & (e) The central government has taken several important steps to ensure large scale community and private sector participation for turning ground water management into a truly peoples' movement. The notable among them are:

- i. The government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana which has community led sustainable management of ground water resources and demand management as its core theme.
- ii. Central Ground Water Board organizes various Public Interaction Programs (PIP), Mass Awareness Programs (MAP), Tier II and Tier –III programmes on local ground water issues, including educating the public about the impacts of water contamination and promoting sustainable practices to maintain water quality.
- iii. Under JJM, with a view to involve community at large and to spread awareness regarding water quality, five persons, preferably women, are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs). Thus far, more than 24 lakh women have been trained across the country.
- iv. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 with active community involvement. Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been set up under Abhiyan in various districts of the country for interacting with local community and dissemination of water related knowledge.
- v. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on September 6, 2024, in Surat, Gujarat whose main objective is to ensure that every drop of water is conserved through collective efforts, following a whole-of- society and whole-of-government approach.
- vi. Further, the Ministry of Jal Shakti and its organizations, work with a very large number of Non-Governmental Organizations and academic institutions to promote public awareness and for enhancing water resource management in the country. The Ministry has entered into several MoUs with NGOs working at the grassroots level as well.

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