

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 691
ANSWERED ON 21.11.2019

CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER

691. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the reports of widespread Uranium contamination found in India's ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government considers Uranium contaminated drinking water harmful for human health;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government plans to set permissible levels of Uranium in drinking water under Bureau of Indian Standards; and
- (f) if so, the time by which it is to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Government is aware about the prevalence of Uranium concentration exceeding 30 microgram / litre (the WHO provisional guideline), in some localized pockets of few states in the country. The States affected by Uranium contamination as per a study conducted by Duke University, USA in association with Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Departments are – Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) & (d) Rural water supply is a State subject and Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial and technical assistance. State Governments plan, approve and implement water supply schemes to provide potable water to rural population. To enable every rural household to have Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) by 2024, Government of India has launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), with an outlay of Rs.3.60 lakh Crore. The funds provided to the States under JJM can be utilized for providing safe drinking water to water quality affected areas on priority.

(e) & (f) The Indian Standard IS-10500: 2012 for Drinking Water specification has specified requirements for radioactive residues as alpha and beta emitters. These requirements take into account all radioactive elements including Uranium. No individual radioactive elements have been specifically identified.