

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2521

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

MAPPING OF URANIUM CONTAMINATED AREAS

2521. SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted a study to map areas with uranium contaminated ground water in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial action plan being prepared by the Government in Uranium contaminated areas;
- (d) whether uranium mining project of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) at Tummalapalle in Andhra Pradesh has caused ground water pollution and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has paid adequate compensation for damage caused to borewells and crops due to uranium mining at Tummalapalle; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Water being State subject, study on groundwater quality and making available safe water to public falls under States' mandate. Further, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data on a regional scale during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring throughout the country. These studies indicate the occurrence of Uranium beyond the BIS permissible limits in isolated pockets in certain parts of the country. The State-wise details of districts (isolated pockets) affected by Uranium contamination of ground water are given at **Annexure**.

(c) Water being a State subject, initiatives for water management, including its quality is primarily the responsibility of the States. 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 and long-term basis to every rural household by 2024. In addition, under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including heavy metals and while planning for potable water supply to household through tap connection, priority is to be given to quality-affected habitations. Further, States/UTs have been advised to plan piped water supply schemes of bulk water transfer based on safe water sources.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA) through Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is supplementing the efforts of State Government to provide safe and clean drinking water in urban areas. AMRUT was launched on June 25, 2015, in 500 selected cities across the country covering around 60% of the urban population.

Data on ground water quality, including contamination by Uranium, available with CGWB have been put in public domain through reports as well as through the web-site (<http://www.cgwb.gov.in>) for use by various stakeholders. The data is also shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.

(d) As per Department of Atomic Energy (DoAE), hydrogeological and stable isotope tracer investigations carried out in the groundwater around the Tummalapalle uranium mining project have confirmed that there is no association between uranium mining industry and elevated uranium levels in ground water. The Uranium occurrence is natural which has been confirmed from the investigations.

(e) & (f) As per DoAE, it has been established by the scientific investigations that no damage is caused to borewells and crops due to UCIL operations at Tummalapalle. Hence, there is no question of payment of any compensation in this regard.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2521 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.08.2023 REGARDING “MAPPING OF URANIUM CONTAMINATED AREAS”.

The details of districts (isolated pockets) affected with Uranium in various States

SI No	State	Districts affected with Uranium (> 30ppb) at isolated places
1	Andhra Pradesh	Ananthapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Kadapa, East Godavari, Krishna, Kurnool, Prakasam
2	Bihar	Saran, Bhabhua, Khagaria, Madhepura, Nawada, Sheikhpura, Purnea, Kisanganj, Begusarai, Vaishali
3	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur, Jashpur, Kanker, Korba
4	Delhi	North West District, South West District, West District, North District
5	Gujarat	Dohad, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Patan, Botad
6	Haryana	Ambala, Bhiwani, Faridabad, Fatehabad, Gurugram, Hissar, Jhajjar, Jind, Kaithal, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Mahendergarh, Palwal, Panipat, Rohtak, Sirsa, Sonapat, Yamuna Nagar, Rewari
7	Himachal Pradesh	Mandi
8	Jharkhand	Godda, Koderma, Latehar, Palamau
9	Karnataka	Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Bellary, Gulbarga, Kolar, Mandya, Raichur, Tumkur
10	Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat, Betul, Chhatarpur, Datia, Gwalior, Jhabua, Panna, Raisen, Seoni, Shivpuri, Bhind, Sagar
11	Maharashtra	Bhandara, Gondia, Nagpur
12	Odisha	Angul, Dhenkanal, Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Bolangir
13	Punjab	Bathinda, Moga, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ropar, Ludhiana, Muktsar, Pathankot, Patiala, Sangrur, SAS Nagar, Amritsar, Barnala, Mansa, Tarn Taran
14	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Alwar, Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittaurgarh, Churu, Dausa, Ganganagar, Jaipur, Jalore, Jodhpur, Karauli, Nagaur, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Udaipur, Dhaulpur, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Jhunjhunu, Pali, Sikar, Sirohi
15	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul, Erode, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Mamakkal, Ramnathapuram, Salem, Thiruvannamalai, Tirupur, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Tuticorin, Virudhnagar, Vellore
16	Telangana	Adilabad, Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, RangaReddy
17	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Azamgarh, Bijnaur, Badaun, Bulandshaher, Deoria, Farrihabad, Fatehpur, G.B.Nagar, Ghaziabad, Ghazipur, Hardoi, Hathras, J P Nagar, Kanpur Nagar, Mainpuri, Mathura, Pratapgarh, Raebarelli, Sultanpur, Unnao, Agra, Auraiya, Baghpat, Chandauli, Etah, Firozabad, Jaunpur, Kanpur Dehat, Mahoba, Muzaffarnagar, Allahabad, Saharanpur, Shahjahanpur, Varanasi
18	West Bengal	Malda

*Updated on the basis of National Hydrograph Station (NHS) data 2021-22 collected by the CGWB.
