

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3165
ANSWERED ON 11.07.2019

MERCURY AND CYANIDE IN WELL WATER

3165. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaints about the dangerous levels of mercury and cyanide detected in well water and other water sources near gold manufacturing industries in the country including Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has responded to this crisis and taken any effective measures; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (d) As per information provided by Kerala State Pollution Control Board, petition from residents of Kurekkad Town Residents Association, Chottanikkara, Ernakulam district, Kerala was received against M/s Vijay Industries, Kurekkad, P.O.Ernakulam on 16.11.2018 and 23.11.2018.

Based on the complaint received, the Board had conducted several inspections and collected well water and soil samples for analysis. Mercury and Cyanide were detected in the nearby wells and soil. Hence, closure order was issued on 29.06.2019 to the unit.

Furthermore, Under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme, Central Pollution Control Board in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitors ground water at 1153 locations in the country. These ground water locations are monitored on half yearly basis for core, general and micro pollutants (metals and pesticides) parameters which includes mercury and cyanide. Groundwater monitoring is carried out at 34 locations in Kerala.

Available water quality monitoring data of groundwater locations in Kerala revealed that all 34 locations having cyanide content are "Below Detection Limit (BDL)" which is complying with CN standard of 0.05 mg/l BIS standards for drinking water, (IS 10500:2012). Information regarding cyanide level in Kerala for the year 2017 is given in **Annexure I**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3165 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.07.2019 REGARDING “MERCURY AND CYANIDE IN WELL WATER”.

STATION CODE	GROUNDWATER LOCATIONS IN KERALA MONITORED UNDER NWQMP	CYANIDE BIS STANDARD 0.05 MG/L
19	WELL AT ELOOR, KERALA	BDL
22	WELL AT CHUNGAPALLY, KERALA	BDL
35	WELL AT PUNALUR, KERALA	BDL
1581	PAPPANAMKODE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA	BDL
1582	NEDUMANGAD, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA	BDL
1583	KUNDARA, KOLLAM DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
1584	CHERTHALA, ALLEPPY, KERALA	BDL
1585	VYTTILA, ERNAKULAM DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
1586	EDAYAR ERNAKULAM DISTT., KERALA	BDL
1587	KALAMASSERY ERNAKULAM DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
1588	PUNKUNNAM TRISSUR DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
1589	MALAPURAM , KERALA	BDL
1590	MAVOOR, KOZHIKKODE DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
1591	KANNUR (MUNICIPALITY) KANNUR DISTTM , KERALA	BDL
1592	PAYYANNUR, KANNUR DISTT. , KERALA	BDL
2308	FATHIMAPURAM (CHANGANASSERY)	BDL
2309	KAROOR (PALA)	BDL
2310	VAIKOM	BDL
2311	VADAVATHOOR (KOTTAYAM)	BDL
2313	SARVODAPURAM, ALAPPUZHA	BDL
2314	KUREEPUZHA (KOLLAM)	BDL
2315	K.M.M.L. (KOLLAM)	BDL
2316	CHELLORA TRENCHING GROUND (KANNUR)	BDL
2317	PUNNALPETTIPALAM (TELLICHERRY MUNICIPALITY)	BDL
2320	MANJERI	BDL
2321	LALLOOR (THRISSUR)	BDL
2322	OLLUR (THRISSUR)	BDL
2323	BRAHMAPURAM M.S.W. DUMPARK (ERNAKULAM)	BDL
2324	HAZARDOUS WASTE DUMP (AMBALAMUGHAL)	BDL
2327	KARUKAMANI	BDL
3463	WELL AT VELLIPARAMBA, KOZHEKODE	BDL
3472	WELL OF TEMPLE PARASSINIKADAVU, KANNUR	BDL
3474	WELL AT PAYANOR, KANNUR	BDL
3475	WELL AT KARIMBAM, KANNUR	BDL