



No 'right' to clean water

- **55 years after Independence we do not have legal rights to clean water.**
- **Why? Because standards for what is “clean” water are not legal.**
- **What is “potable” water? What is “wholesome” water?**
- **For this we need standards for each parameter for what constitutes “safe” water.**
- **Then we need a law that enforces these standards so that agencies supplying water are held responsible. Citizens then have the “right” to clean water.**



JPC recommends drinking water guidelines to become legally enforceable standards

- **The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) under the Union ministry of urban development and poverty alleviation sets **guidelines** for drinking water quality.**
- **1996; parliamentary committee on subordinate legislation says, water should be brought under “food” as the agency responsible for supplying drinking water to the public has to ensure purity and the statute should bind it to do so.”**
- **But ministry of urban development says no. It would mean that a “legal commitment to adhere to standards”.**
- **JPC report: Indian standards but must be “legally enforceable”.**



Regulation for drinking water

- In India the guideline for pesticide residues in water is:
Pesticide should be “Absent”.
- Water is not included in diet. No pesticide can be consumed through water.
- WHO says chemical contamination has to be “tolerated” not “permitted” in water.
Toleration varies between 1-10% of ADI.
- **Setting standard for water will require adjustment in food ADI**



Pesticides in water

