

Come summer, quality of potable water comes under test

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Packaged drinking water being transported in Tiruchi. | Photo Credit: M SRINATH

Civic body takes steps to treat water at the source itself

While the Tiruchi City Corporation is confident about maintaining drinking water sufficiency during the summer months, health officials are on their toes to make sure that quality of water is maintained.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, A. Jagannathan, city health officer said it was difficult to entirely rule out water contamination. “People out of the goodness of their heart distribute juices, water and buttermilk. But, the source of the water they use might be questionable. Health inspectors have been trying to keep a check on them. We had to request people to source water from the corporation tanks, especially during temple festivals,” he said.

Meanwhile, the corporation has been taking steps to treat water at the source itself, said Mr. Jagannathan. “Conventionally most civic bodies treat water with bleach before supplying. We pump liquid chlorine at the collection tanks itself,” he said. The team of engineers keep close tabs on breaches, such as water pipe leakage, contamination and follow it up quickly, he added

Chlorine, according to Mr. Jagannathan is the best and easiest water purifier. “We use liquid chlorine and pump it into the tanks which ensures that the entire tank is disinfected,” he said. The corporation also hands out chlorine tablets to residents.

Residents say that in addition to the chlorination of drinking water by the civic body, a second-level purification was necessary.

“At our house, just like most other houses on our street, we prefer packaged drinking water cans. The cans come at an affordable rate and are of good quality. We do not need to invest in a water purifier which costs thousands of rupees,” said S. Muthu, a resident in Thillai Nagar.

The quality of the packaged drinking water, however, may vary, say officials. To keep a check, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) provides details on most of the licensed manufacturing units across the State on www.safewater.fssai.gov.in. Consumers can check the quality of the packaged drinking water supplied to them by entering the license number or BIS number printed on the package. Details, including lab reports, about when the unit was started and various parameters tested for water quality.