

# Greater Kashmir

## Dead rat found in water supply line

Largam residents accuse PHE department of exposing consumers to health hazard

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Alleging sheer negligence on the part of the public health engineering department, residents of village Largam said they found a dead rat stuck in the pipe giving “portable” water supply to the area.

The residents of Largam and adjoining villages to Shopian town were shocked to see the dead rat stuck in the water pipeline in the periphery of the village when they were trying to locate and remove a blockade that according to them had affected the supply to the village.

“The village was receiving diminished water supply for last two days and this prompted us today to look for any possible blockade in the supply lines in presence of a few PHE linemen,” the locals said.

“We had requested the officials of the department to check the pipeline. Today they came and we also tried to help them but everyone was shocked when we saw a dead and decomposed big rat stuck in a whole of the pipe. There was bad smell emanating from it” many locals said.

“It is shocking that we were drinking this impure water for last so many days. Many residents have been complaining of fever and chest infection which might have caused for obvious reasons,” they said.

“How can we use the water from this supply line as there may be many more rats in it,” Shabir Ahmad a local asked.

When contacted, executive engineer PHE Shopian/Pulwama, Nisar Ahmad said: “It was a hole used for chlorination of the water supplied to the village. The rat had got into it but it was removed and the supply was immediately restored”.

“We are always trying to supply pure water but it is unfortunate incident. We had dropped chlorine in the supply line as well as in the source tank,” he said.