

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1330**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

**Impact of climate on WASH Services**

1330. MS DOLA SEN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to address the impact of extreme climate events on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, considering the vulnerabilities faced by communities in coastal areas and slum settlements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has plans to integrate climate-resilient practices into existing flagship missions like the Swachh Bharat and Jal Jeevan Mission; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d) Climate change is likely to adversely affect human health through a number of ways, especially with regard to increased frequency and intensity of heat waves, cyclones, floods, droughts, etc. The Government of India stands committed and measures have been taken to address challenges from Climate Change.

The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change, which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, green India, human health and strategic knowledge on climate change. National Action Plan on Climate Change outlines the key priority and actionable areas at various levels (national and state) in the health sector with identification of other key stakeholders for implementing the activities on the basis of which State Governments including majority of coastal states have also prepared their own State Action Plan on Climate Change to address the impacts and vulnerability of climate change through mitigation and adaptation measures.

The Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to be implemented in partnership with states, in August 2019. Drinking Water is a state subject, and hence, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

Under JJM, provisions have been made for drinking water source development/ strengthening/ augmentation; and infrastructure for bulk transfer of water, treatment and distribution systems in water deficit drought-prone and desert areas without dependable ground water sources, apart from creation of in-village water supply infrastructure.

Further, for villages in water-scarce areas, in order to save the precious fresh water, States are also being encouraged to plan new water supply scheme with dual piped water supply system, i.e. supply of fresh water in one and treated grey/ waste water in another pipe for non-potable/ gardening/ toilet flushing use. In addition, the households in these areas are to be encouraged to use the faucet aerators that save a significant amount of water.

Government had launched Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] on 2nd October, 2014 with the main aim to make the rural areas (including tribal areas) of the country Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October, 2019. All the villages (including Coastal villages) in the country declared themselves ODF by 2nd October, 2019. Having achieved the outcome of the ODF, Phase II of SBM (G) is being implemented during the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25, with the focus on ODF sustainability and to cover all the villages (including coastal villages) with Solid and Liquid Waste Management. Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase 2.0 is a reflection of the commitment of Government of India to ensure people have access to and use of sustainable sanitation and hygiene services. Climate resilient practices are inbuilt in SBM-G. Some of these are -Promoting decentralized and locally managed wastewater systems that do not require energy for conveyance, In-situ treatment of fecal matter through twin pit toilets and promoting other simple technologies for waste matter that promote easy recycling and reuse, wastewater treatment systems that are pond based and allow reuse of treated wastewater for agriculture, pisciculture and other allied uses, Conversion of organic waste into biogas, which reduce methane emission and provide a clean fuel and organic manure, Plastic waste management with emphasis on disposal of waste in an environmentally safe manner.

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