

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 895
ANSWERED ON 11/12/2023

SCARCITY OF DRINKING WATER

895. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has taken cognizance of scarcity of drinking water in several parts of the country, including Punjab;
- (b) if so, whether any action has been taken to address the issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR)

(a) to (d) Government of India is committed to make provision for safe & potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on a regular & long-term basis to all rural households in the country. Towards this end, 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.

Significant progress has been made in the country since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, towards enhancing access to tap water to rural households. At the start of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, only 3.23 Crore (16.8%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 07.12.2023, around 10.53 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 07.12.2023, out of 19.24 Crore rural households in the country, approximately 13.76 Crore (71.51%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. As reported by State Government, all 34.26 lakh rural households of Punjab have been provided with tap water supply in their households.

Government of India has taken number of steps to plan and implement JJM in the whole country which *inter alia* includes discussion and finalization of annual action plan (AAP) in consultation with States/ UTs, regular review of planning and implementation, workshops/ conferences/ webinars for capacity building and knowledge sharing, field visits by multi-disciplinary team to provide technical support, etc.

To bring transparency and effective monitoring, an online 'JJM dashboard' has been created, which provides State/ UT, district and village-wise progress as well as status of provision of tap water supply to rural homes. The dashboard can be accessed at:

<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>
