

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2304
ANSWERED ON – 16/12/2024

DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

2304. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) manner in which Government is assisting in ensuring the supply of clean drinking water to all households under the Jal Jeevan Mission;
- (b) update on efforts to address Fluoride contamination in drinking water in certain regions of the country; and
- (c) measures that are being taken under the Swachh Bharat Mission to improve sanitation facilities in rural and semi-urban areas?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI V SOMANNA)

(a) & (b) 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. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards are adopted as benchmarks for quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes. Drinking Water being a state subject, 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 since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, towards enhancing access to tap water to rural households. At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, 3.23 Crore (16.72%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in the country. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 12.12.2024, around 12.11 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 12.12.2024, out of 19.36 Crore rural households, approximately 15.35 Crore (79.31%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, priority is given to habitations affected by chemical contaminants. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Fluoride. States/ UTs have been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes based on alternative safe water sources for the villages with water quality issues.

Under JJM, it was envisaged that planning, implementation and commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source may take time, therefore, purely as an interim measure, States/ UTs have been advised to install community water purification plants (CWPPs) especially in Arsenic and Fluoride affected habitations to provide potable water to every household to meet their drinking and cooking requirements. Since launch of JJM, due to the efforts taken under the Mission, the number of reported quality affected habitations have reduced over the years. Provision of safe drinking water for cooking and drinking requirements has been made available in all the remaining 255 Fluoride affected habitations through CWPPs/ IHPs.

(c) Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] was launched on 2nd October, 2014 with the aim to eliminate open defecation in rural areas by 2nd October, 2019. Sanitation over the years became Jan Andolan. Coverage as on 2.10.2014 was 38.7%. This increased to 100% as on 02.10.2019. Over 10 crore Individual household Latrines (IHHLs) constructed under Phase-I of SBM(G) and all the villages of the country declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF) by 2nd October, 2019. Having achieved the ODF status, SBM(G) Phase-II is being implemented during the period from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with the aim to sustain ODF status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM). For sustaining ODF Status, there is provision of Rs.12,000 for construction of Individual household latrines (IHHLs) for newly emerging (BPL households and identified APL households). Greywater management is done through soak pits, wherever possible, or through other technologies such as Waste Stabilization Ponds, Constructed Wetlands, Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS), etc, to ensure that untreated wastewater is not mixed with water bodies. States/UTs have been advised to make arrangement for Solid Waste Management i.e.-Bio-degradable and non-biodegradable system for Household and for all public Places (including the primary schools, Panchayat Ghar and Anganwadi center). SWM system includes Collection, Transportation, Segregation, Storage, and management of SWM. Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), wherever needed, through co-treatment in existing Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)/ Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) facilities in nearby urban/rural areas or trenching or setting up of FSM Plant as required. There is provision of Rs. 16 lakh per block for setting up of Plastic Waste Management Unit (PWMU) at block/district level.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has informed that Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched on October 2, 2014 with the objective of Open Defecation Free (ODF) and for scientific processing of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) generated in the urban areas of the country. To continue the support to cities, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-U) 2.0 has been launched on October 1, 2021 for a period of five years with a vision of achieving safe sanitation and scientific management of all fractions of waste including safe disposal in scientific landfills, legacy dumpsite remediation. In order to meet the demand of the cities, support is being provided by Government of India in the form of:

- i.) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for setting up of waste processing facilities, construction of IHHLs, CT/PTs, mechanical desludging vehicles for safe sanitation, sanitary scientific landfills, remediation of legacy dumpsites, etc.
- ii.) Technical support by way of manuals, advisories, designs, protocols covering all aspects of planning, designing and operation and maintenance of waste management.
- iii.) Funds for Capacity Building (CB), Information, Education and Communication (IEC) is also provided to State and cities to ensure awareness creation along with large scale citizen outreach to intensify 'Jan Andolan'.
