GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *11

ANSWERED ON 03/02/2025

GOAL TO ACHIEVE TAP WATER AND SANITATION IN RURAL INDIA BY 2025

*11. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the innovative strategies which are being adopted to ensure that tap water and sanitation targets are met;
- (b) whether there are any independent bodies involved in the evaluation of these efforts;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which Government is monitoring the progress and effectiveness of these water and sanitation projects?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI C.R. PATIL)

(a) to (d) A statement of reply is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (d) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. *11 answered on 03/02/2025

(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, in August 2019, Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in partnership with States to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household.

At the time of launch of JJM, out of total 19.24 Crore rural households, 3.23 Crore rural households (16.71%) of the country had tap water connections. Since then, about 12.20 Crore (75.62%) families living in rural areas have been provided with tap water connections in their homes and as on 29.01.2025, about 15.43 Crore (79.69%) households are having tap water connections.

Similarly, 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. 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 2025-26 with the aim to sustain ODF status and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM).

Independent bodies such as World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), Chicago University, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore have carried out study on health impact and employment generation potential.

The report released by the WHO estimates that provision of tap water supply to all households in the country shall lead to estimated daily savings of 6.60 crore hours of time, which the citizens would have had to spend in collection of water for meeting their households needs. It is also estimated that 75% of such savings shall be for women. The report indicated further that providing tap water to all households in the country, could prevent 4 lakh diarrheal deaths. This is equivalent to savings of 14 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs), translating to economic savings of up to US \$101 billion.

The study conducted by IIM and ILO on 'Assessment of Employment Potential of Jal Jeevan Mission', states that implementation of JJM has the potential to generate 59.93 lakh person-years of direct and 2.22 crore person-years of indirect employment through creation on the piped water supply infrastructure. It is also estimated that 11.18 lakh person-years of additional direct employment is likely to be created, annually, during the O&M stage.

As per the Operational Guidelines of 'Jal Jeevan Mission', it is the responsibility of National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) to carry out regular functionality assessment, evaluation and impact assessment. For the purpose, NJJM selects a 3rd party agency through open tendering. In such assessment(s), State/ UTs are given a functionality score on the basis of functionality of samples on quantity, quality and regularity of water supply to rural households. Since announcement of the mission in August, 2019, two functionality assessment survey has been conducted in 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Similarly, this Department conducts also Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) through a third-party survey agency to carry out the assessment of household sanitation parameters, including Faecal Sludge Management (FSM), biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste management, and Grey Water Management (GWM). As part of the SSG, States/UTs are ranked on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative Swachhata parameters.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG)-2023-24 was conducted by the DDWS, through a third-party survey agency. The Survey covered 17,304 villages in 729 Districts across India and 85,901 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places etc. in these 17,304 villages. Around 2,60,059 Households were interviewed for their feedback on SBM(G) related issues.

In addition to this, Operational Guidelines of SBM(G) Phase-II prescribe that the States/UTs may conduct periodical evaluation studies and these evaluations could be used for course correction and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme.

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

https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx and https://sbm.gov.in/sbmgdashboard/statesdashboard.aspx
