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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1217
ANSWERED ON 10/03/2025

MOU SIGNED BETWEEN DR. SHYAMA PRASAD MUKHERJEE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WATER AND SANITATION AND ARGHYAM

1217# SHRI BRIJ LAL:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) role of Arghyam in the integration of technology-based solutions in water governance and the impact it would have on decision-making in the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene ;

(b) manner in which the digital public infrastructure being developed under this partnership to strengthen the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission;

(c) the key technological components of the proposed digital ecosystem and the manner in which these will contribute to sustainable water management and sanitation services; and

(d) way in which state institutions will be strengthened under this initiative to effectively ensure end to end operation and maintenance of water resources?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

(a) & (b) : Arghyam, an Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) having expertise in the water sector, has joined Rural WASH (Water and Sanitation, Hygiene) Partners Forum (RWPF) as a lead partner in the thematic area of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to lead / support the efforts in creation of DPI to enable the States for efficient, sustainable operations of assets created under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). DPI is the concept being developed for implementation by the State Governments. Thereafter, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM NIWAS) has entered into a Non-Financial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Arghyam. This partnership is meant to evolve the guidelines and strategy for adoption of DPI for drinking water sector. The initiative focuses on the development of open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and interoperable solutions, which will enable data-driven decision-making across the sector.

(c) : The Key technological component of DPI mainly includes open APIs, Internet of Things (IoT), AI, and cloud computing.

(d) : The DPI provides open APIs and foundational digital tools that States can leverage to monitor, manage, and maintain water supply systems more effectively. By building these digital tools, States may develop context-specific solutions and ensure that the systems are both interoperable and sustainable.

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