

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1838
ANSWERED ON 17/03/2025

PENDING FUNDS TO PUNJAB UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION

1838. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of presence of chemicals like Uranium, Arsenic and Selenium in groundwater of Punjab, beyond the permissible limits;

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal to provide financial assistance to Punjab to provide clean drinking water to the people of the State;

(c) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor; and

(d) progress made in releasing pending funds to the tune of ₹111.13 crore to Punjab under Jal Jeevan Mission so that the projects started to provide canal water to villages affected by water quality can be completed on time?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data on a regional scale including State of Punjab as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. The Annual Ground Water Quality Report – 2024 has been released by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) recently which can be viewed at <https://cgwb.gov.in/cgwbpnm/public/uploads/documents/17363272771910393216file.pdf>. Trace elements such as As (Arsenic), U (Uranium) and Selenium (Se) were analyzed at 908 locations. The groundwater quality assessment in Punjab revealed 32.6% of samples surpassing permissible limits for Uranium (U) followed by Arsenic (As) which has been reported in 4.85% samples, while 0.44% samples had Selenium levels above permissible limit.

Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, since August, 2019, in partnership with States, to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to rural households. 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.

Under JJM, while planning water supply schemes to provide tap water supply to households, priority is given to habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Arsenic and Heavy Metals such as Uranium and Selenium. Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants. 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.

In the union budget for 2025-26, the extension of Jal Jeevan Mission till 2028 has been announced. Ministry of Finance has communicated a tentative Budget Estimate of Rs. 67,000 Crore for the Financial Year 2025-26. Once approved by the competent authority, the Central share under JJM may be considered for release. The year-wise details of Central fund allocated, drawn and utilization reported by the State of Punjab under JJM since 2019-20 to 2024-25 (as on 12.03.2025) for making provision of safe drinking water through household tap water connection is as under:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

S. No.	Year	Central share					State Expenditure
		Opening Balance	Fund allocated	Fund Drawn	Available fund	Expenditure	
1.	2019-20	102.91	227.46	227.46	330.37	73.27	78.20
2.	2020-21	257.10	362.79	-	257.10	146.74	152.77
3.	2021-22	110.36	1,656.39	402.24	512.60	247.83	265.70
4.	2022-23	264.78	2,403.46	-	264.78	264.80	210.69
5.	2023-24	-	479.02	119.76	119.76	103.79	166.43
6.	2024-25	15.97	644.54	50.00	65.97	3.46	45.80
Total			5,773.66	799.46	902.37	839.89	919.59

Source: JJM-IMIS

The Department has developed a web based integrated management information system (JJM-IMIS) to capture the data of water quality affected habitations, where States/UTs provide status of habitation that have contamination in their drinking water sources. States/UTs have also been advised to carry out testing of water quality on a regular basis and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality. To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed. The State-wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS are available in public domain and can be accessed at:

<https://ejalshakti.gov.in/WQMIS/Main/report>
