

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2643**  
ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**WATER CONNECTION TO SCHEDULED CASTE HOUSEHOLDS**

2643 SHRI CHANDRAKANT HANDORE:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the caste discrimination is being practiced while giving water connections to Scheduled Caste households in the rural areas of many States;
- (b) if so, the measures taken/being taken by Government to check caste bias in providing the connection; and
- (c) the number of water connections provided to Scheduled Caste households, in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b) Drinking water is a State subject. The power to plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes/projects lies with State Government including Maharashtra. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

JJM follows a universal approach to cover all rural households including the remote rural households. Following the principle of 'no one is left out', under Jal Jeevan Mission, provision of tap water supply is envisaged for every rural household, including all SC/ ST rural households in the country. Further, priority is given for provision of tap water supply in water quality affected habitations, desert and drought-prone areas, SC/ ST villages, Aspirational & JE - AES affected districts, Saansad Adarsh Gramin Yojana villages, etc.

(c) As reported by Maharashtra on JJM-IMIS, total 4.11 lakh households are present in SC concentrated habitations. Of this, as on 20.03.2025, 3.62 lakh households (88.11%) have tap water supply in their homes.

In the last three years from 2022-23 to till date, tap water connection has been provided to 1.13 lakh households in SC concentrated habitations of Maharashtra.

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