

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 107
ANSWERED ON 21/07/2025

RURAL PIPE WATER SUPPLY UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION

107 # SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the strategies being implemented to ensure long-term operation and maintenance of rural piped water supply schemes, promote community ownership and participation (Jan Bhagidari) under Jal Jeevan Mission;
- (b) the support being provided to Gram Panchayats in this regard; and
- (c) the specific, targeted interventions that have been implemented to improve water security and prevent “Day Zero” scenarios in severely water-stressed or groundwater-depleted States, particularly in the State of Maharashtra and the successes that have been achieved so far in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) To enable every rural household in the country, to have assured potable water, in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis, through tap water connection, since August 2019, Government of India in partnership with States including Maharashtra, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Har Ghar Jal.

At the start the Mission, only 3.23 Crore (16.7%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 16.07.2025, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal around 12.43 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 16.07.2025, out of 19.36 Crore rural households in the country, more than 15.67 Crore (80.93%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Similarly, at the start the Mission, only 48.44 lakh (33%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in the State of Maharashtra. So far, as reported by the State as on 16.07.2025, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal around 83.57 lakh additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 16.07.2025, out of 1.47 Crore rural households in the State, more than 1.32 Crore (89.94%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Since its launch, Jal Jeevan Mission is being implemented as a decentralized, demand-driven and community-managed programme, wherein the Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee/ user group i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti are being empowered to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain in-village water supply system to provide regular and assured tap water supply in rural households.

Under JJM, NGOs/ Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/ Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Voluntary Organizations (VOs), etc. are also being empaneled as Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) to handhold and train VWSCs/ Pani Samitis in planning, mobilizing and engaging communities, disseminating information and encouraging women participation for ensuring long-term maintenance of the water supply infrastructure.

To bring in 'sense of ownership and pride' among rural communities, provision has been made for community contribution to the extent of 5% of the in-village infrastructure cost in case of North Eastern States and difficult/ hilly areas, forested, water-stressed and villages with more than 50% SCs/ STs population, and 10% in remaining villages.

Moreover, for enabling the local village community to play their role in planning, implementation and to shoulder the responsibility of operation and maintenance, Nal Jal Mitra Programme (NJMP) has been launched in collaboration with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to equip them with a comprehensive set of skills & develop "Nal Jal Mitras", so that they can function as scheme operators and are able to carry out minor repairs and maintenance, including preventive maintenance, of the piped water supply scheme(s) in their village as skilled masons, plumbers, fitters, electricians, motor mechanics, pump operators, etc.

While preparing VAPs, dovetailing of resources available at village level under various programmes like 15th Finance Commission tied grant for water & sanitation to RLBs/ PRIs, JJM, SBM(G), MGNREGS, MP/ MLA - Local Area Development Funds, District Mineral Development Fund (DMDF), CSR Fund, community contributions, etc. is of paramount importance. In long-term, it is expected that village community will dovetail and utilize all available resources for long-term water security of the village.

(c) As informed by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DOWR&GR), Water being a State subject, Government of India providing technical and financial support to assist State efforts. Initiatives such as the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) and the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge (2020) encourage the implementation of rainwater harvesting structures. Additionally, the Central Ground Water Authority regulates groundwater usage and mandates rainwater harvesting in critical zones to ensure sustainable water management. Maharashtra's Water Policy 2019 is aligned with the National Water Policy, focusing on water conservation, equitable distribution, and the protection of ecosystems.

CGWB has also implemented artificial recharge projects in Maharashtra and other states to boost groundwater. Recent data shows an encouraging trend in overall groundwater extraction reduced from 63.33% in 2017 to 60.47% in 2024, with safe assessment units increasing and over-exploited units decreasing. Groundwater monitoring in Maharashtra indicates 76% of wells showed rising water levels post-monsoon 2024, reflecting progress in groundwater sustainability. Further, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country including Maharashtra, four times in every year. DoWR&GR along with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments, conducts annual assessments of India's dynamic groundwater resources.

In addition, various initiatives have been launched to promote water conservation and management. The important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management across the country can be seen at web-link

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>.
