

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 1048
ANSWERED ON 09/02/2026

DRINKING WATER PROBLEMS IN ODISHA

1048. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has independently verified claims of “tap water coverage” under Jal Jeevan Mission in districts such as Gajapati, Rayagada, Kandhamal and Nabarangpur, where seasonal water scarcity and quality issues persist;
- (b) the details of habitations in these districts where water supply is irregular, contaminated or non-functional despite reported coverage;
- (c) whether accountability has been fixed for premature asset failure, poor source sustainability and inadequate community involvement; and
- (d) the remedial actions being taken to ensure that water security in the State of Odisha’s tribal and hilly regions is sustainable and not merely notional?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) Since August 2019, the Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, in partnership with States/ UTs including Odisha, to make provision of tap water connection to every rural household of the country. ‘Water’ being a state subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance (O&M) of drinking water supply schemes/ works, including those under JJM, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the states by providing technical and financial assistance.

As informed by the state of Odisha, to ensure reliable access to safe drinking water in the state, including districts of Gajapati, Rayagada, Kandhamal and Nabarangpur which face water scarcity and quality issues and tribal and hilly regions, the Government has undertaken several interventions. These include mega piped water supply projects, single-village and multi-village schemes, solar piped water supply projects, solar dual pump systems, and tubewells. In regions with difficult terrain and accessibility constraints, solar-based water supply projects have been specifically sanctioned to ensure sustainable service delivery. In addition, to maintain source sustainability during periods of acute water

scarcity, particularly in summer season, check dams/ ISS/recharge pits are constructed to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the public.

Upon completion of piped water supply projects, a certification process through Gram Sabha resolutions is followed to validate that all households in a village have been provided with functional tap water connections and water supply. This serves as a community-level verification mechanism, carried out in the presence of a government officer. In addition, the Central Government has deployed Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) to conduct ground inspections of JJM works, which have helped identify functionality gaps and implementation issues, enabling corrective measures to be taken.

Furthermore, the Government of Odisha has informed that it has a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism under BASUDHA, through which issues such as irregular, contaminated, or non-functional water supply, despite reported coverage, are addressed and resolved within 2-6 days. In cases of water quality contamination, appropriate treatment plants are installed and other remedial measures taken to ensure the supply of safe drinking water. Accountability has been clearly fixed at appropriate levels through defined roles, regular monitoring and periodic technical reviews to prevent premature asset failure.
