

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

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1851**  
ANSWERED ON 09/03/2026

**DRINKING WATER COVERAGE**

1851 SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) basis for declaring households as fully covered with tap water;
- (b) number of habitations reporting non functional connections;
- (c) quality monitoring mechanisms for supplied water; and
- (d) whether inflated coverage data undermines the scheme's credibility?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) Since August 2019, Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 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 every rural household in the country. Water, being a state subject, the primary responsibility for planning and implementing piped water supply schemes to provide tap water to their households, lies with the respective State/UT. The Govt. of India only provides technical and financial support.

Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a rural household is considered covered upon provision of a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) ensuring regular supply of potable water. "Functional" implies supply of at least 55 litres per capita per day (lpcd) of water meeting BIS:10500 quality standards on a sustainable basis.

At the time of launching of JJM in 2019, out of total 19.35 crore rural households, only 3.23 Crore rural households (16.71%) of the country had tap water connections. Since then, about 12.58 Crore families living in rural areas have been provided with tap water connections in their homes and as on 05.03.2026, 15.81 Crore (81.71%) households are having tap water connections.

As reported by States/UTs on the JJM-IMIS portal, as on 05.03.2026, 9358 habitations have no piped water supply in country.

States/UTs are advised to ensure tap water functionality and quality per JJM standards through regular reviews. Up to 2% of state allocations are dedicated to Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQM&S), funding laboratory upgrades, NABL accreditation, and procurement of testing equipment like Field Test Kits (FTKs). To mitigate health risks, states must conduct tests at schools and Anganwadis. Additionally, five local women per village are trained to perform community-level surveillance for parameters like Arsenic and Fluoride.

Moreover, States/ UTs have also been advised to undertake testing of water quality on a periodic basis and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.

\*\*\*\*\*