

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2497
ANSWERED ON 10/08/2026

WATER QUALITY AND DRINKING WATER SAFETY IN ODISHA

2497. DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the district-wise number of rural habitations in the State of Odisha affected by contamination of drinking water due to fluoride, iron, salinity, arsenic or other contaminants;
- (b) the number of habitations where safe drinking water has been provided under Central schemes;
- (c) the status of water quality testing laboratories and field testing infrastructure in the State; and
- (d) the measures taken to ensure long-term drinking water quality monitoring?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

(a) to (d) Drinking Water being a State subject, the responsibility of Planning, Designing, Approval, Implementation, Operation & Maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, is vested with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States/ UTs including Odisha by providing financial, policy guidance and technical assistance.

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, is under implementation since August, 2019, in partnership with States/ UTs including Odisha to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to rural households. Under JJM, as per existing guidelines, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards are adopted by States/ UTs including Odisha as benchmark for quality of water being supplied through the piped water supply schemes. BIS specifies 'acceptable limit' and 'permissible limit in the absence of alternate source' for various physio-chemical and bacteriological parameters for drinking water quality.

At the time of announcement of JJM, around 3.10 lakh rural households were reported to have tap water connections in Odisha. So far, as reported by State as on 04.08.2026, around 65.62 lakh additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 04.08.2026, out of 88.62 lakh rural households, in the State, around 68.73 lakh households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Under JJM, to enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (JJM-WQMIS) portal has been developed. The State-wise details of water quality testing reported through WQMIS including contamination reported and remedial action taken at village level are available in public domain and can be accessed at: <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/WQMIS/Main/report>.

As reported by States/ UTs on JJM-WQMIS, as on 04.08.2026, the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Departments of Odisha operate a network of 160 water quality testing laboratories at various levels viz. State, regional, district, sub-division, block, mobile and/ or WTP facility laboratories.

In consultation with various stakeholders 'Concise Handbook for Monitoring Water Quality of Piped Drinking Water Supply to Rural Households' has been released in December 2024 for guidance to States/ UTs. This handbook recommended for a comprehensive testing of drinking water samples at various testing points such as source, treatment plant, storage and distribution points, and remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality.

A “Citizen Corner” has also been placed on the JJM Dashboard. The “Citizen Corner” includes display of village level water quality test results in the public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas.
