

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2024

DRINKING WATER IN SUMMER

2863. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to secure a reliable and sufficient supply of drinking water during the summer months and contingency plans in place to address potential shortages particularly in regions prone to high temperatures and increased water demand;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is preparing to maintain or restore drinking water services during and after flooding events along with the infrastructure or logistics in place to prevent contamination and ensure access to safe drinking water;
- (c) the strategies employed to ensure the quality of drinking water is maintained during these extreme conditions along with the details of specific protocols for testing and treating water to prevent contamination from environmental factors such as flooding;
- (d) the details of improvements being made in water supply infrastructure to enhance resilience against summer heat and flood conditions; and
- (e) whether there are any ongoing projects aimed at strengthening water storage, distribution systems, or purification facilities and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) Since August 2019, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal to make provision of potable water to every rural household of the country, *inter alia* including those facing water shortages particularly in regions prone to high temperatures and increased water demand, through functional tap water connection i.e. at a service level of 55 litre per capita per day, of prescribed quality, on regular and long-term basis in all seasons including summer months.

Water being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, lies with State/ UT Governments. States/ UTs have been advised, through numerous review meetings, field visits, etc., to ensure functionality of tap water connections provided *inter alia* including quality (BIS:10500) and quantity (55 litre per capita per day (lpcd)) of water supplied as per JJM standards throughout the year.

Further, States have also been advised for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rainwater recharge, rejuvenation of existing water bodies, reuse of greywater, etc., to

ensure adequate water availability for rural water supply schemes. In addition, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign is being implemented aiming to encourage water conservation at grass-root levels with people's participation.

As informed by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India has taken several steps towards sustainable management of water in urban areas through issuance of various guidelines and implementation of National Missions i.e., Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) & AMRUT 2.0.

AMRUT was launched on June 25, 2015, in 500 selected cities (now merged to 485) across the country covering around 60% of the Urban Population. AMRUT focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure in the selected cities in the sectors of water supply; sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; non-motorized urban transport and development of green spaces and parks. Against the approved plan size of ₹77,640 crore, a significant amount of ₹39,011 crore (~50%) has been allocated for water sector alone. So far, 1,391 projects have physically started worth ₹43,238 of which work worth ₹40,743 crore physically executed. Through these projects and in convergence with other programmes, 189 lakh household water tap connections have been provided so far.

AMRUT 2.0 has been launched on 1st October 2021 with a total outlay of ₹2,77,000 crore covering all the statutory towns of the country to ensure universal coverage of water supply and make cities 'water secure'. Under AMRUT 2.0 so far, 3,543 water supply projects worth ₹1,13,358 crore have been approved by MoHUA. Through these approved projects 1.82 crore new tap connection is planned to be provided.

While implementing the Mission, emphasis is laid on management of drinking water supply during extreme situations such as floods, heatwaves, etc. States/ UTs have also been advised to carefully select the locations of rural water supply infrastructure to have protection from floods, cyclone, landslides, land slips, impact of earthquake; deploy resilient infrastructure; comply with codal provisions issued for earthquake/ flood or cyclone/ landslide prone areas.

Moreover, for disaster prone areas, like coastal areas, flood prone tracts, Himalayan States etc. States have been advised for raising of platforms for handpumps/ tap connections, ensure their functionality from time to time to work as interim solution in the event of natural disasters. Further, plan for stationing permanent mobile water purification plants at the nearest possible safe locations and develop an inventory of these plants; enable access to prepositioned emergency water supply kits camps and other mass displacement situations, supply of adequate purification kits; setting up of mobile water purification plants in affected area; water quality surveillance with reference to disease surveillance using field test kits; have also been envisaged for emergency preparedness.

Further, provision of flexi funds has been made in the operational guidelines to take up works for restoration of water supply schemes in case of natural disasters.

(e) Numerous projects *inter alia* including projects aiming at strengthening water storage, distribution systems, or purification facilities are implemented concurrently at various levels across the States for achieving the objectives envisaged. Water being a State subject, project-wise details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects are not maintained at the Government of India level.
