

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. – 2942**  
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2024

**CLEANING OF WATER TOWERS UNDER JJM**

†2942. SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allocated funds for maintenance and cleaning of water towers and supply pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the amount of funds allocated for the same in the State of Bihar?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c) Since August 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household in the country.

Water is a state subject. The responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance (O&M) of drinking water supply schemes lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance. The JJM Operational Guidelines emphasize the role of the community in operations and maintenance of in-village water supply infrastructure, *inter-alia*. The States/ UTs have been advised to devise comprehensive operation and maintenance (O&M) policy for the water supply infrastructure created. No funds under JJM are allocated to States/ UTs for O&M.

The Gram Panchayat or its sub-committee i.e. Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Pani Samiti/ User Group etc. with at least 50% women members are required to operate and maintain the in-village water supply. A Margdarshika for Gram Panchayats & VWSCs has been shared with States/ UTs to carry out the O&M work. The Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee, i.e. VWSC/ Pani Samiti/ User Group, etc. are empowered to open an account to receive funds for O&M from different sources such as incentive fund from JJM, Finance Commission grants and community contribution to meet the recurring charges.

As per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities inter alia which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

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