

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO- 60
ANSWERED ON 28/11/2024

DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF JJM IN ASSAM

*60. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) have been temporarily halted in Assam due to concerns over lapses noticed in quality control and delay in projects timelines and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issues regarding quality control and project timeline in JJM projects in Assam;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the allegations of corruption in work allocation under JJM projects in Assam;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government to investigate these claims; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to ensure transparency and accountability in project execution?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI C R PATIL)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *60 for reply on 28.11.2024 regarding delay in Implementation of JJM in Assam asked by Shri Gaurav Gogoi

(a) and (b) Government of India is committed to make provision for safe & potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on a regular & long-term basis to all rural households in the country. Towards this end, the Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to be implemented in partnership with States/ UTs, in August 2019. Government of India supplements the efforts of States/ UTs by providing technical and financial assistance under JJM.

Significant progress has been made in the country since the launch of JJM, towards enhancing access to tap water to rural households. At the start of the mission in August 2019, only 3.23 crore rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 23.11.2024, around 12.06 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 23.11.2024, out of 19.34 crore rural households in the country, more than 15.29 crore (79.09%) rural households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

As reported by the state government of Assam, at the time of launch of JJM in the state on 15.08.2019, only 1.11 lakh rural households had tap water connections. Since then, 57.40 lakh additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 23.11.2024, out of 71.93 lakh rural households in state, the provision of tap water supply is available to around 58.52 lakh (81.35%) rural households.

As reported by the state government of Assam, vide notification dated 03.10.2024, it has ordered a temporary stand-still period. The state has informed that it plans to conduct a comprehensive review of all ongoing and completed schemes during this period. The exercise will assess the quantity and quality of work, identify deviations from project plans, analyse delays, and evaluate the performance of Third-Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs) and Detailed Project Report (DPR) Agencies. The goal is to ensure all projects comply with the standards of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

(c) to (e) Water is a state subject and, therefore, the primary responsibility for planning and implementing piped water supply schemes to provide tap water to rural households, lies with the respective State/UT Government. As such, grievances/ complaints, etc. under JJM are handled and disposed of at the State/ UT level. Such complaints/ representations as and when received in this department are forwarded to the state government for taking necessary corrective measures. Further, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation undertakes several measures such as functionality assessment, ground truthing by National WASH Experts, call-based feedback from complainant, field visits by National Teams, status review in meetings, etc. to ensure that the complaints related to quality of works are addressed by the State/UT.

In addition, Government of Assam has informed that it takes following measures to ensure transparency and accountability:

- i) eBill & eMB for Contractors: This initiative enables contractors to raise their bills electronically, which are automatically submitted to the concerned Section Officer (SO) for verification. The process is tracked seamlessly from the Division to the State Headquarters, ensuring transparency and efficiency.
- ii) Scheme Monitoring Tool (SMT): A transparent fund flow mechanism facilitated through an online bill management system, enhancing accountability and streamlined operations.
- iii) JJM Brain: A comprehensive digital platform designed for reporting, monitoring, and data entry, supporting effective management and oversight.
