

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1648
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

INVOLVEMENT OF PRIVATE COMPANIES IN WATER SUPPLY

1648. SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific reasons to involve private companies in water supply in spite of being the responsibility of the States;
- (b) the reasons for increasing the role of private companies in water storage, treatment and supply and the measures taken/being taken by the Government to regulate the same;
- (c) the regulatory mechanism adopted by the Government to prevent escalating charges of water in many urban areas, particularly under private multinational companies; and
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaints against the private companies and if so, the number of complaints, nature of the grievance along with the action taken/being taken by the Government during the last five years and the current year?

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, through functional tap water connection i.e. at a service level of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd), of prescribed quality (BIS:10500), on regular and long-term basis.

Water is a State subject. It is States who plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by providing financial and technical assistance. State Governments may involve private companies for preparation of project reports, execution of the projects, etc., as per their needs. Moreover, complaints on irregularities / corruption/ grievances received so far have been forwarded to the respective State Government for taking necessary action.

Further, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has informed that it has taken several initiatives towards sustainable management of water in urban areas through implementation of National Missions i.e., Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in

2015 & AMRUT 2.0 launched in 2021. AMRUT focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure especially water supply & access to tap connection to every household in 500 cities. Taking it forward, AMRUT 2.0 covers all the statutory towns of the country to ensure universal coverage of water supply & make cities 'water secure'. It envisages rejuvenation of water bodies, urban aquifer management, promote recycle & reuse and rainwater harvesting to augment freshwater resources. For water availability & conservation, so far, 3,596 water supply projects worth Rs. 1,14,073.65 crore have been approved by Apex Committee at MoHUA.
