

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2834**  
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

**COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH FOR RESOLVING WATER CRISIS**

2834. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a plan to promote community-based approaches for resolving water crisis to liberate the women fetching water from distant source;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the initiatives taken/proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view the fact that the country holds only four per cent of the water resources which makes it one of the most water-deficient regions in the world; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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 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.

Significant progress has been made in the country since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, towards enhancing access to tap water for rural households. At the start of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, only 3.23 Crore (16.8%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 10.12.2024, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal around 12.12 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 10.12.2024, out of 19.35 Crore rural households in the country, around 15.35 Crore (79.30%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

To instill a sense of ownership among the rural communities and Panchayats, the aspects of village level planning and community participation in all decisions pertaining to water supply systems have been included in the design of JJM.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that achieving saturation of tap water coverage in rural households in the country will result in savings of more than 5.5 Crore hours of time every day, which is otherwise spent in collection of water for household needs, primarily by women.

Some of the major initiatives taken up under the mission for participation of women are listed as under:

- More than 5.29 lakh sub-committee/ user group of the Gram Panchayats i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC) or Pani Samiti with at least 50% women members and suitable representation to marginalized sections of society, have been constituted to plan, implement, manage, operate, and maintain in-village water supply system.
- Five women are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs) and so far, 24.78 lakh women have been trained and so far, more than 74.17 lakh samples have been tested through FTKs in 2024-25.
- More than 14 thousand NGOs/ VOs/ Women SHGs/ CBOs/ Trusts/ Foundations referred as ISAs are engaged across the country to facilitate women participation at all levels of planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of in-village water supply systems and contribution.

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