

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2929
ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

URBAN WATER CRISIS

2929. SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that addressing the urban water crisis in the country requires a sophisticated and integrated approach;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in mind that introducing progressive water pricing mechanisms, reflecting the true scarcity value of water and its externalities could promote its conservation and efficient use across urban India?

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 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.

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 09.12.2024, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, around 12.11 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 09.12.2024, out of 19.35 Crore rural households in the country, more than 15.34 Crore (79.28%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes and the remaining households are likely to be covered by the States as per their plans.

Further, the works related to Water supply relating to urban areas are being looked after by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and it has informed that Water is a state subject, management of water is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has taken several steps towards sustainable management of water in urban areas through issuance of various guidelines, implementation of National Missions i.e., Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) & AMRUT 2.0.

1. AMRUT

- Launched on June 25, 2015, in 500 selected cities 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 & Septage Management; & other areas. Of the approved plan size of 77,640 crore, a significant amount of 39,011 crore (~50%) has been allocated for water supply sector.
- In Water Supply sector, ULBs/State may take up projects related to new/augmentation/rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies for water supply and recharge of ground water etc. So far, 1,390 projects have been grounded worth 43,242 crore of which works worth 41,134 crore have been physically completed. Through these projects & in convergence with other programmes, 189 lakh household water tap connections have been provided so far.
- In addition, States have also taken up projects related to rainwater harvesting and water bodies rejuvenation under water supply component of AMRUT. 09 water bodies have been taken up for rejuvenation & 7 projects related to rainwater harvesting have been taken up by the States to aid in water conservation.
- In addition, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has formulated guidelines for the guidance of the States for their adoption suiting local conditions. Adequate focus has been given on requirement of rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures in Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 and Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014.

2. AMRUT 2.0

- Taking it forward, AMRUT 2.0 has been launched on 1st October 2021 covering all the statutory towns of the country to ensure universal coverage of water supply & make cities 'water secure' and also to ensure universal coverage of sewerage & septage management in 500 AMRUT cities.
- It envisages rejuvenation of water bodies, urban aquifer management, promote recycle & reuse and rainwater harvesting to augment freshwater resources.
- Mission has a reform agenda focused on financial sustainability and water security of ULBs through reduction in non-revenue water, recycle/ reuse of 20% treated used water, and efficient town planning etc.
- The Aquifer Management Plan targets to focus on maintaining positive groundwater balance in urban aquifer systems.
- So far, under water supply sector, 3,596 projects worth 1,14,073.65 Crore and 3,078 Water Body Rejuvenation projects worth 6,159.29 crore have been approved by MoHUA.
