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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2472
ANSWERED ON 13/03/2025

WATER CRISIS IN AURANGABAD DISTRICT IN BIHAR

†2472. SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the severe water crisis in Aurangabad, Bihar, during the summer months, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of measures taken by the Government to ensure access to safe and clean drinking water, considering the frequency and impact of floods in northern Bihar and droughts in southern Bihar;

(c) the current status of the projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission in Aurangabad district, and the number of villages covered under this scheme so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the rejuvenation of water bodies and promotion of rain water harvesting, particularly in strengthening water management in drought-prone southern Bihar and flood-prone northern Bihar?

ANSWER

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

(a) As reported by the state government of Bihar, there is as such no severe water crisis in rural areas of Aurangabad. However, during peak of summer season, there are few pockets which face some water crisis because of seasonal drawdown and low water yield in some borewell. But with the provision of tap water supply available to every rural household in the district, this has also been addressed.

(b) Since August, 2019, Government of India is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), in partnership with States/ UTs, to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household of the country, including those in flood-affected and drought-prone areas. As informed by state government of Bihar, alternate arrangement are made for construction of deep borewell handpumps every year under disaster management scheme to mitigate any crisis during summer season.

Furthermore, during the implementation of JJM, emphasis is laid on management of drinking water supply during extreme situations such as floods, heatwaves, etc. States/ UTs have been advised to carefully select the locations of rural water supply infrastructure to have protection from floods, cyclone, landslides, land slips, impact of earthquake; deploy resilient infrastructure; comply with codal provisions issued for earthquake/ flood or cyclone/ landslide prone areas. For disaster prone areas, like coastal areas, flood prone tracts, Himalayan States etc., States have also been advised for raising of platforms for handpumps/ tap connections, ensure their functionality from time to time to work as interim solution in the event of natural disasters.

(c) Drinking Water is a state subject, and hence, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the JJM, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the states by providing technical and financial assistance. The details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects are not maintained at the Government of India level. As reported by state government of Bihar on JJM-IMIS, in Aurangabad district of Bihar, as on 15.08.2019, only 1,014 (0.25%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. Since then, 3,80,557 additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections in the district. Thus, as on 10.03.2025, out of 3,98,372 rural households in the district, 3,81,571 (95.78%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. Out of 1,721 villages in district, 1,398 villages are reported Har Ghar Jal villages by state on JJM IMIS.

(d) As informed by state government of Bihar, various measures are undertaken with the support of other departments to improve water resources, water conservation, green cover and reduce ill effects of climate change thus strengthening water management in state. Some of these measures include:

i.) Rejuvenation of water storage structures like ponds, Ahar-pyne, wells and construction of soak pits.

ii.) Construction of check dams, garland trench and new water conservation and harvesting structures.

iii.) Construction of roof-top rainwater harvesting structures in government buildings.

iv.) Transfer of water from water surplus areas to water deficit areas.

v.) Use of alternative farming methods like organic farming, sprinkler, drip irrigation etc. to minimize consumption of groundwater.

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