

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5435
ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

DRINKING WATER PROBLEM IN KUTTANAD

5435. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the severe drinking water crisis due to increasing salinity, pollution and inadequate infrastructure in Kuttanad, Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of any ongoing or proposed central assistance for improving drinking water availability in the region;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Kerala for desalination plants, pipeline infrastructure or other water supply projects for Kuttanad;
- (d) if so, the details and status thereof along with the estimated timeline for implementation; and
- (e) whether the Government would consider a special drinking water package for Kuttanad under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) or any other central scheme and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) 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, including those in the Kuttanad, Alappuzha district of Kerala, 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 the Mission, only 1.85 lakh (33.61%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in Alappuzha. So far, as reported by the State as on 31.03.2025, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal around 1.80 lakh additional rural households have been provided with

tap water connections. Thus, as on 31.03.2025, out of 5.52 lakh rural households in the Alappuzha district of Kerala, more than 3.65 lakh (66.20%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

To achieve 100 per cent coverage through continued implementation of mission, Hon'ble Finance Minister during her budget speech 2025-26 has announced extension of Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028 with enhanced total outlay.

Drinking Water being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance. The choice of technology, best suited to the context in a State/ UT, including use of desalination, for making provision of potable water supply to households lies with the respective State/UT Governments. Further, as per operational guidelines for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Programme Jal Jeevan Mission, State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee (SLSSC), headed by Chief Secretary/ Addl. Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary in-charge of Public Health Engineering (PHE)/ Rural Water Supply (RWS) Department, approves the schemes/ projects being taken up under JJM.

Numerous projects *inter alia* including projects aiming at strengthening water storage, distribution systems, or purification facilities are implemented concurrently at various levels across the States for achieving the envisaged objectives. As such, project-wise details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects are not maintained at the Government of India level.
