

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

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *80
ANSWERED ON 23/07/2026

INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS UNDER JJM

***80. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:**

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), including the total number of rural households provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) as on date, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has deployed any inspection teams to investigate complaints regarding poor infrastructure quality, financial irregularities and tender premium scams across States and if so, the findings thereof;
- (c) the total number of departmental officials, private contractors and Third-Party Inspection Agencies against whom punitive action including suspension, blacklisting, registration of FIRs and arrests has been taken following the reviews conducted by the Union Government; and
- (d) whether the Government has paused, frozen or restructured funds allocation to specific States pending submission of Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on complaints of corruption and if so, the details thereof along with the details of new scheme-based funding model under JJM 2.0?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI C R PATIL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *80 for reply on 23.07.2026 regarding “Investigations of Complaints under JJM” asked by Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak

(a) Drinking Water is a ‘State’ subject, and hence, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation & maintenance of drinking water supply schemes lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

At the start of JJM in August 2019, only 3.23 crore (16.72%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported, more than 12.66 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 18.07.2026, out of 19.36 crore rural households in the country, more than 15.89 crore (82.09%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes. The State-wise coverage of rural households with tap water connections is available at JJM dashboard at <https://ejalshakti.gov.in/jjmreport/JJMIndia.aspx>

(b) to (d) ‘Water’ being a State subject, grievances/ complaints, etc. *inter alia* including sub-standard work and financial irregularities under JJM are handled and disposed of at the State/ UT level.

As per the data reported by all States/ UTs, a total of 18,790 complaints have been received by States/ UTs from different sources such as media reports, suo-moto cognizance, references from public representatives, citizens, grievance portal, etc. regarding financial irregularities and poor quality of works under JJM. As reported by the States/ UTs, action has been taken against 635 Departmental Officials, 1,020 contractors and 155 Third Party Inspection Agencies (TPIAs). The departmental officials involved in irregularities are undergoing administrative action, including suspension, departmental inquiries, issuance of charge sheets as per established procedures. In the case of contractors, actions taken include blacklisting or recommendation for blacklisting, termination of contracts, debarment, forfeiture of earnest money deposits and imposition of penalties, depending on the nature of violation. With regard to TPIAs, the concerned persons have been removed from empanelment, and in other cases, show-cause notices have been issued and recoveries initiated.

In addition, Government of India regularly reviews the implementation with respective State Governments through review meetings and visits of multi-disciplinary teams to highlight the areas to strengthen implementation and monitoring of the mission. In this context, to ensure quality, transparency, and sustainability of rural water supply systems under JJM, DDWS conducted ground verification of selected JJM schemes through Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) and technical teams across States/UTs. The exercise covered verification of technical design, financial propriety, quality of works, implementation progress and grievance-related issues through a digital assessment framework integrated with JJM-IMIS, developed in consultation with CVC, NITI Aayog, and CPHEEO. Based on findings of CNOs, reports were analysed and shared with States/UTs for corrective measures.

The key findings of the assessment indicated that State-specific policies or practices are leading to technically inconsistent and economically inefficient designs. Deviations from Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO) design norms,

inclusion of urban water demand, have also resulted in unreasonably high project costs. Further, limited involvement of Gram Panchayats (GPs) in planning, implementing and management of in-village infrastructure, lack of clear directives delineating the technical support responsibilities of the Public Health Engineering Departments (PHEDs) towards GPs has also been observed to be adversely impacting the sense of ownership of rural community and Jan Bhagidari.

Furthermore, ground verification of schemes has been enhanced by strengthening the monitoring framework for National WASH Experts (NWEs) through a revised and comprehensive checklist emphasizing quality of execution. The reports of NWEs are shared with States through JJM-IMIS for taking corrective measures.

As far as central fund releases are concerned, the Operational Guidelines of JJM 2.0 provide for release of Central assistance on a scheme-wise basis for approved schemes under two funding modes, namely:

- i. Upfront Payment Mode (through SNA SPARSH): Proposed for Single Village Schemes, Multi Village Schemes (MVS) in quality/ quantity-affected areas and Non-PWS schemes including Support & Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) components
- ii. Reimbursement Mode: Proposed for other MVSS and Bulk Water Supply Schemes.
