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STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES

(2024-25)

EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI – DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND
SANITATION**

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2024-25)

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /
Recommendations contained in the First Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha)
of the Standing Committee on Water Resources]**

SIXTH REPORT



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

August, 2025 / Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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SANITATION**

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**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /
Recommendations contained in the First Report on ‘Demands for
Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation)**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11.08.2025

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 11.08.2025



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 2025 / Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES (2024-25)

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy - Chairperson

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3. Shri Joyanta Basumatary
4. Chh. Udayanraje Pratapsinha Maharaj
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RAJYA SABHA

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- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
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| 4. | Shri Umesh Bist | - | Under Secretary |
| 5. | Shri Gaurav Jain | - | Assistant Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2024-25) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Sixth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their First Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2. The First Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 10 February 2025. The Action Taken replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received in this Secretariat on 16 May, 2025.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 08.08.2025.

4. An analysis of the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the First Report (Eighteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Annexure-II.

NEW DELHI
08 August, 2025
17 Sravana,1947 (Saka)

RAJIV PRATAP RUDY,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2024-25) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their First Report (18th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2. The First Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 10.02.2025 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10.02.2025. The Report contained 19 Observations/Recommendations.

3. Action Taken Notes in respect of all the 19 Observations/Recommendations of the Committee have been received from the Government. These have been examined and categorized as follows: -

- (i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (Chapter II):

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19
(Total – 16)

- (ii) Observations / Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (Chapter III):

Recommendation Nos. NIL
(Total – NIL)

- (iii) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Chapter IV):

Recommendation Nos. 5, 9 and 16
(Total – 03)

- (iv) Observations / Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (Chapter V):

Para Nos. NIL
(Total – NIL)

4. The Committee desire that replies to recommendations made in the Chapter-I of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

5. The Committee will now deal with action taken by the Government on some of their Observations/Recommendations that require reiteration or merit comments.

A. Slow Rate of Saturation in regard to Har Ghar Jal Status and underperforming States/ UTs

Recommendation No.3

6. The Committee was concerned and dismayed that since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, only 11 States viz. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, DNH&DD, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Puducherry, Punjab and Telangana had reached their Saturation level by achieving Har Ghar Jal Status.

7. The Committee noted that States had reported that long gestation period of Multi Village Schemes, lack of dependable ground water sources in drought-prone & desert areas, geogenic contamination, terrain challenges in hilly & forested areas, lack of technical capabilities in the States, delay in clearances from nodal agencies, availability of matching State share, especially during CoVID-19 pandemic associated lockdown, etc. had slowed down the pace of implementation for programme in underperforming States.

8. The Committee further noted with concern that the Saturation timelines projected by States/UTs to achieve Har Ghar Jal Status would be till 2027, thereby extending the original 2024 timeline of JJM by three more years. The Committee also noted that the physical progress in the remaining States/UTs range from 96.42% to 53.84%, however, the performance of six States viz. Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Rajasthan were below national average under JJM.

9. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department play a more pro-active role and provide all necessary assistance to all the States/UTs in achieving their set goals expeditiously, while focusing on underperforming States/UTs for successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee would like to be apprised of the tangible outcome of initiatives taken by the Department in this direction.

10. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“To expedite the planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and handhold States/ UTs, Government of India has taken number of steps to plan and implement JJM in the whole country which inter alia includes discussions and consultation with States/ UTs, regular review of planning and implementation, workshops/ conferences/ webinars for capacity building and knowledge sharing, field visits by multi-disciplinary team to provide technical support, etc. Moreover, for online monitoring, JJM–Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and JJM–Dashboard has been put in place. Provision has also been made for transparent online financial management through Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In addition, to expedite the implementation of JJM, this department has also taken up SWSM and DWSM dashboards, Functionality Assessments and mapping of water pipelines on PM Gatishakti portal for effective monitoring of infrastructure created under the Mission.

Further, for extending guidance to States/ UT’s officials and local village level functionaries to expand the water quality testing and reporting, surveillance of drinking water sources, sanitary surveys, setting up of laboratories, etc. Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework has also been released. States have also been advised to formulate a comprehensive O&M Policy inter alia including provisions for source sustainability and suitable provisions for development of efficient and sustained mechanism for collection of water tariff, finalised by the State in consultation with GP/ VWSC/ Pani Samiti. A draft framework for the comprehensive O&M Policy has also been shared with the States. So far, 20 States have finalized/ notified the O&M Policy and the remaining States have been advised to notify the respective O&M Policy before 30.06.2025.

As a result of above initiatives taken by the department, following progress has been done:

- (i) Around 20 Lakhs Kms of water pipelines have been uploaded on PM Gatishakti portal which is intended to provide multimodal connectivity infrastructures to various economic zones.*
- (ii) To streamline the monitoring of piped water supply schemes, this department has developed SWSM dashboard. The dashboard will provide the basic information about the PWS, water quality details, functionality and financial details at single platform. Due to this development, apart from PHE department, O/o Chief Secretary, District Collectors and Panchayat Level functionaries will also be able to view/ monitor the progress of schemes.*
- (iii) The field survey for Functionality Assessment of tap connections has been completed in 22,812 villages across the country. The findings of the report shall be shared with the States/ UTs to take corrective action on the gaps.*
- (iv) The Department is regularly reviewing the progress with respective District Magistrates/ Deputy Commissioners/ Collectors, being head of DWSMs on various aspects of progress including scheme completion, HGJ*

certification, priority areas, PVTG habitations, coverage of schools and anganwadis, O&M etc”.

11. The Department has stated that it has taken number of steps to plan and expeditiously implement the JJM in the entire country by monitoring and handholding States/UTs. It has furnished number of measures that it has taken which *inter alia* include discussions and consultation with States/ UTs, regular review of planning and implementation, workshops/ conferences/ webinars for capacity building and knowledge sharing, field visits by multi-disciplinary team to provide technical support, etc. Moreover, for online monitoring, JJM–Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and JJM–Dashboard has been put in place. Provision has also been made for transparent online financial management through Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In addition, to expedite the implementation of JJM, this department has also taken up SWSM and DWSM dashboards, Functionality Assessments and mapping of water pipelines on PM Gatishakti portal for effective monitoring of infrastructure created under the Mission. However, the Committee in its 1st Report on DFG (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation observed that the performance of six States viz. Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Rajasthan are below national average under JJM. The Committee thus once again reiterate that the Department may pay special attention to the above underperforming six States and take necessary measures to expedite the work relating to JJM in these States.

B. Piped water network-restoration of public infrastructure

Recommendation NO.4

12. The Committee note that laying/relaying of pipelines works is being done transparently and efforts are being made to put up DPR prepared by the States in Gati Shakti portal. States have been advised to ensure minimum damage to existing infrastructure such as roads/highways while executing rural water schemes and to restore the roads/highways immediately in case of any consequent damage. The Committee has also noted that funds available under JJM may be utilized for repairing or constructing streets or roads that get affected while laying water supply pipelines and States have been making provision for the same in the DPR.

13 The Committee also note that the Apex Committee of the State Water and Sanitation Mission headed by the Chief Secretary of the State with Secretaries in-

charge of PHE/ Rural Water Supply, Rural Development (RD), Panchayati Raj (PR), Primary Education, Health, Finance, Planning, Information and Public Relations and a GOI representative as members, have been entrusted with the work of, inter-alia, coordination among various Departments and other agencies for convergence and successful implementation of the works of the JJM including the restoration of public infrastructure damaged during the execution of works under JJM.

14. The Committee has however observed that quality of restoration of public infrastructure damaged during execution of works under JJM is substandard in many States/UTs and needs visible improvement. The Committee desires to know the underlying reasons for such sub-standard restoration work and urge upon the Department to take all necessary remedial measures in convergence with other stakeholders/implementation agencies in the States/UTs concerned. The Committee is also of the firm opinion that since the role of the local elected representatives is vital in the welfare measures of the States/UTs, they may also invariably be involved in functioning of the Apex Committee of the State Water and Sanitation Mission.

15. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“To avoid any hardships to the villagers, States have been advised to take up rural water schemes in a way with minimum damages to infrastructure such as roads/ highways and to restore the roads/ highways immediately in case of damages done while laying of pipelines for water supply systems. Further, funds available under JJM may be utilized for repairing or constructing streets or roads that get affected while laying water supply pipelines of rural water supply schemes taken up under JJM.

As per the JJM Guidelines, the State implementing agencies are to ensure the quality of materials used in construction/ restoration of roads etc. by getting it certified from accredited testing agencies. Further, under JJM, third-party inspection of quality of works undertaken is mandatory before making payment to the contractors. Reference for any sub-standard restoration work brought to the notice of NJJM are taken up with respective States with an advice to take requisite corrective action within a month.

The Apex Committee of the SWSM mainly responsible for policy guidance and overall planning, strategizing, and implementation of JJM in the State of implementation of the Mission. Further, recognizing the key role Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MP)/ elected representatives can play in mobilizing the local community and empowering them to ensure assured piped water supply in rural homes, provisions have been made in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission to enable their participation to make Jal Jeevan Mission truly a people's movement, i.e. 'Jan Andolan'. In this regard, an advisory has been issued to all States/ UTs elaborating the roles of MPs wherein States/ UTs have been specifically requested to ensure that:

- i.) Hon'ble MPs are consulted while preparing District Action Plans for water supply schemes and are also invited as 'special invitees' in all the DWSM meetings;
- ii.) convening of State/ District level DISHA meeting on regular intervals, for monitoring the progress of implementation of JJM; and
- iii.) invitation to various official functions organized for bhoomipujan, inauguration/ commissioning of schemes, etc. for which district/ divisional level officers to be sensitized.

To instill the 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. Some of the major initiatives taken up under the mission for participation of rural community are listed as under:

- Around 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).

More than 14,000 NGOs/ VOs/ Women SHGs/ CBOs/ Trusts/ Foundations referred as ISAs are engaged across the country to facilitate community participation at all levels of planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of in-village water supply systems and contribution”.

16. The Committee are pleased to learn of the initiative taken by the Department on the recommendation of the Committee to encourage the role of the elected representatives in issuing an 'Advisory' to all States/UTs elaborating the role of MPs wherein States/UTs have been requested to ensure that Hon'ble MPs are consulted while preparing District Action Plans for water supply schemes and are also invited as 'Special Invitees' in all the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) meetings. However, the Committee further urge the Department to ensure that the Hon'ble MPs are aware of this 'Advisory' in order to encourage their active participation in DWSM meetings, as it has been observed that many of the Hon'ble MPs despite issuance of such advisories are still unaware of this initiative.

C. Water Quality issue in Rural Areas

Recommendation No.5

17. The Committee noted that 12,167 rural habitations in different Districts of the country were still affected with water contamination despite being priority areas under NWQSM launched in 2017 and JJM implemented in 2019. Assam and Rajasthan, two

of the worst water contaminated States would be likely to achieve status of Har Ghar Jal by 2026 and 2027 respectively. All NWQSM identified 27,544 Arsenic/Fluoride affected habitations had been provided safe drinking water through Community water purifications plants as an interim measure. Further, as on 23.10.2024, in 61 identified JE/AES affected districts in five States, 80.21% rural household had been provided tap water supply.

18. In a nut shell, as on 23.10.2024, out of around 78.67 lakh rural households in water quality affected habitations, more than 52.19 lakh (66.34%) households were reported to have tap water supply in their homes and the remaining 26.47 lakh households were likely to be covered by the States as per their plans.

19. The Committee were of the firm and considered view that remedial measures to address the serious issue of water quality is to be taken by the Department with a sense of urgency and seriousness, as continuous use of unsafe drinking water is a serious health hazard to millions of people residing in the water quality affected areas. The Committee were also of the view that piped water supply is the only solution to tackle water quality problems and therefore, a time bound Plan was needed to be put in operation in the remaining contamination affected areas to achieve this target. Moreover, the Committee also urged the Department to launch a nationwide awareness programme to educate rural masses about the hazards of contaminated water by involving all stakeholders, i.e., Centre, State, Local Authorities, Civil Society, NGOs, etc., active in the field. The Committee desired to be apprised of the measures taken in this regard.

20. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“JMM envisages to provide every rural household with potable water of prescribed quality (BIS:10500), on regular and long-term basis through tap connection. Further, potable water supply to water quality-affected habitations is a priority and efforts are made to ensure safe drinking water to all quality-affected villages especially those affected with Arsenic and Fluoride contamination through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements till the commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source. As reported by States, all the Arsenic (314) and Fluoride (250) affected habitations have been provided with potable water through CWPPs. Thus, as reported by the States/ UTs, all habitations in rural area of the country are provided safe drinking water free from Arsenic and Fluoride contamination.

Further, as per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize up to 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities, inter-alia, which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

In every village, 5 persons especially women are being trained for water quality testing and reporting. So far, more than 24.80 lakh women have been trained in different villages. Moreover, to encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened all the 2,180 water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate. Further, States have been advised to utilize services of degree science colleges for drinking water samples. In addition, this Department has suggested the nominal rates for testing of water samples which are suggestive for all States/ UTs.

Year-wise details of drinking water samples tested in labs and using FTKs are as under:

Year	No. of samples tested		Total no. of samples Tested
	in labs	using FTKs	
2014-15	40,03,841	27,73,861	67,77,702
2015-16	38,48,475	20,56,377	59,04,852
2016-17	39,41,186	10,57,530	49,98,716
2017-18	40,18,331	11,01,486	51,19,817
2018-19	39,15,038	11,09,941	50,24,979
2019-20	42,16,683	8,49,135	50,65,818
2020-21	49,00,963	38,17,824	87,18,787
2021-22	41,72,176	25,33,869	67,06,045
2022-23	62,19,775	96,23,912	1,58,43,687
2023-24	75,00,041	1,08,54,196	1,83,54,237
2024-25	82,68,247	93,84,186	1,76,52,433
2025-26 (As on 01.05.2025)	3,79,424	3,04,797	6,84,221

[Source: JJM-IMIS]

A 'Citizen Corner' was also developed by the Department on the JJM Dashboard. The corner included display of water quality test results in the

public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas. Further, the Department has requested all the stakeholders inter alia including Civil Societies, NGOs, SHGs, etc. to come forward and work together for generating awareness among rural masses for improved Water Quality Management in rural areas. In consultation with various stakeholders 'Concise Handbook for Monitoring Water Quality of Piped Drinking Water Supply to Rural Households' has been released in December 2024 for guidance to States/ UT's officials and their parastatal organizations for framing their own water quality monitoring and surveillance protocol as per their local requirements.

Further, in collaboration in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, a Standard Operating Procedures for Joint Action on Water Quality Monitoring and Health Outcomes was released to all State/ UTs outlining the joint actions, roles, and responsibilities at each level between functionaries of drinking water supply departments and health departments at the State/District/Village level, by engagement of the officials and staff mainly of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)/ Rural Water Supply (RWS) department, and Health in the States/UTs for timely detection, prevention, management, and control of water-related diseases due to biological and chemical contaminants and their related health impacts through joint monitoring, preparedness, and timely response.

Moreover, in association with NITI Aayog, Jal Utsav was organized in 20 Aspirational Districts/Blocks from 6th to 20th November, 2024 for encouraging community participation in preservation and protection of water resources and instilling a sense of responsibility towards efficient water use among households and water management among utilities and agencies. In this initiative, school students are being enrolled in water management activities, empowering them to act as catalysts for change within their families and communities”.

21. The Committee in its 1st Report on DFG (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation observed that piped water supply is the only solution to tackle water quality problems and therefore desired that a time bound Plan be put in operation in the water contamination affected areas to achieve this target. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has stated that efforts are made to ensure safe drinking water to all quality-affected villages especially those affected with Arsenic and Fluoride contamination, through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements till the commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source. It has further stated that as reported by States, all the Arsenic (314) and Fluoride (250) affected habitations have been provided with potable water through CWPPs. Thus, as reported by the States/ UTs, all habitations in rural area of the country are provided safe drinking water free from Arsenic and Fluoride contamination. However, in this regard, the Committee

observe that the Replies of the Department remain silent on the time bound plan or roadmap for providing piped water supplies to the areas which are also contaminated by other pollutants like Iron, Salinity, Nitrate, and Heavy metals and may cause health hazards. In view of this, the Committee once again recommend preparation and implementation of time bound plan for providing potable drinking water through pipelines to contamination affected areas.

D. Operational and Maintenance work

RECOMMENDATION NO.7

22. The States/ UTs had been advised to meet O&M cost and sustainability of rural water supply infrastructure through various measures as prescribed in the operational guidelines of JJM. For long term sustainability, a comprehensive O&M policy including features such as, handing over of schemes to Panchayats/Pani Samitis, user charges, sufficient financing specially to cover expenses on account of energy bills, skilling, and deployment of local persons for O&M and water quality surveillance activities, is being put in place by States/UTs. However, as reported, only 12 States/UTs had notified O&M policies for sustainability of rural water infrastructure. States which were lagging behind, have attributed i) Lack of institutional capacity, ii) Financial Constraints and iii) Coordination Challenges, as factors adversely affecting timely formulation and functionality of O&M policies. The Committee failed to comprehend the reasons for such dismal efforts shown by the States in notification of their O&M policies. The Committee expressed concern over the approach shown by the Department, whereby all responsibilities for O&M were shifted to the States, despite being aware that an effective O&M policy is essential for long term sustainability of JJM. The Committee also expressed concern over lack of a comprehensive O&M policy even though JJM is in its fifth year of implementation having achieved the milestone of providing tap water connections to about 78.74% rural households in the country. The Committee also took a note of the situation that Financial constraints is a significant concern for many States proving to be a hurdle in notifying their O&M policy despite all the available arrangements provisioned under JJM by the Government of India. The Committee, therefore, recommended that the Department take pro-active measures and provide all necessary assistance to the States/UTs in notifying their O&M policy at the earliest and its successful implementation at ground level. The Committee might be apprised of the measures taken in this regard.

23. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“For long term sustainability, a comprehensive O&M policy including features such as, handing over of schemes to Panchayats/ Paani Samitis, provisions for source sustainability and suitable provisions for development of efficient and sustained mechanism for collection of water tariff finalized by the State in consultation with GP/ VWSC/ Pani Samiti, sufficient financing specially to cover expenses on account of energy bills, skilling, and deployment of local persons for O&M and water quality surveillance activities, should be put in place by States/UTs. A draft framework for the comprehensive O&M Policy has also been shared with the States. So far, 20 States have finalized/ notified the O&M Policy and the remaining States have been advised to notify the respective O&M Policy before 30.06.2025. Further, a diagnostic matrix consisting of 19 major components of the Model O&M Policy have also been shared with States to assess readiness of the State/ UT to effectively/ efficiently operate, manage and sustain the rural PWSs against different anticipated incidents/ parameters of operation and maintenance phase.

Moreover, linking of notification of O&M Policy of the respective State to release of central grants-in-aid under JJM, proposed for extended phase of implementation of the Mission, is also under consideration of this Department”.

24. The Committee are pleased to learn that so far, 20 States have finalized/ notified the O&M Policy and the remaining States have been advised to notify the respective O&M Policy before 30.06.2025. The Committee are of the view that for long term sustainability of the JJM, a comprehensive O&M policy is essential. In this regard, the Committee also note that linking of notification of O&M Policy of the respective State to release of central grants-in-aid under JJM, proposed for extended phase of implementation of the Mission, is also under consideration of the Department. The Committee believe that tying the notification of the O&M Policy with the release of central grants may go a long way in establishing a strong O&M mechanism in place and hence urge the Department to take all required steps to implement it on priority basis.

E. Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance

RECOMMENDATION NO.9

25. The Committee noted that as per operational guidelines for implementation of mission, every State/ UT had to identify and train 5 persons preferably women in each village viz. ASHA workers, health workers, VWSC members, teachers, etc. to conduct water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs)/bacteriological vials at village level.

States/ UTs had been advised to take requisite measures for making available adequate number of FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level. As reported by States/ UTs, so far, as on 23.10.2024, 24.72 lakh women from 5.07 lakh villages had been trained for water quality testing using FTKs. Further, under JJM, up to 2% of the allocation to States/ UTs could be utilized for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQM&S) activities, including for procurement of FTKs /H2S vials. The States had been advised to enable the public to get their water samples tested at laboratories at nominal rates which is recommended as Rs.600/- for 16 different parameters.

26. The Committee while appreciating the fact that, about 5.07 lakh villages had trained 24.72 lakh women for water quality testing using FTKs, desired to know the ground reality of the progress made and whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the veracity of information uploaded by the States/UTs on JJM-Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) in this regard. The Committee were of the view that although 2% of the allocation to States/UTs could be utilized for WQM&S activities including procurement of FTKs/H2S vials, it was not a mandatory requirement and may not be used for the designated purpose by any State/UT. In such a scenario, the Committee apprehended the efficacy of WQM&S activities and water quality testing using FTKs and recommend the Department to revise operational guidelines of JJM suitable for ensuring the earmarked 2% allocation be mandatorily used, only for the designated purpose.

27. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“Under JJM, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities inter alia which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc. As such, States as per their requirements may take up various activities under WQMS.

Department has been regularly reviewing the progress made by the States under various WQM&S activities from time to time. Further, for water quality surveillance, a thorough & dedicated online portal Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) has been put in place where the details of water samples collected, tested along with details of contamination found and remedial action taken is reported on daily basis. Further, tagging of the water sample collected for testing to household/location to ensure effective remedial measures is also proposed during the extended phase of the mission”.

28. The Committee observe that the Department has cited number of steps being taken by it for water quality monitoring and surveillance. However, the Committee note that the Reply of the Department has not furnished specific reply regarding the observation made by the Parliamentary Committee in its 1st Report on DFG (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on the aspect of ascertaining the veracity of the information uploaded by the States/UTs on JJM-Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). Being aware of the fact that actual veracity of uploaded information is essential for realizing the actual ground situation and filling the visible gaps, the Committee reiterate its recommendation that the Department makes sincere efforts to ensure the authenticity of the data being fed on the IMIS.

F. The Number of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) and Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) and incentives for IHHLs

RECOMMENDATION NO.16

29. The Committee observed that there was a reduction in the number of Individual Household Latrines(IHHLs) and Community Sanitary Complexes(CSCs) constructed during FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 in comparison to the year FY 2020-21. The reasons for construction of substantial number of IHHLs in FY 2020-21 was attributed to the fact that majority of the left out households were identified post achievement of ODF status on be basis of base-line survey carried out in 2020-21. The department had been constantly asking the States/UTs to continue the Sanitation campaign so that no one is left behind and newly emerging households gets IHHLs. However, the Committee felt that as the deadlines of the Mission was fast approaching, there was an urgent need for a renewed base-line survey in order to identify the left out households in order to avoid any gap in the implementation of the Mission.

30. Further, the Committee vide its earlier recommendations, having noted that an incentive of Rs.12,000/- for construction of one unit of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) is being provisioned under SBM(G) to BPL and identified above poverty line households, had opined on the department the need to review and revise the per unit assistance appropriately in rural areas. Keeping in view the fact that the incentive amount of Rs. 12000/- per unit of IHHL was based on assessment of 2014, the Committee, therefore, reiterated its stand and recommend that the department consider revision of the incentive for IHHLs based on the present rate of inflation.

31. The Department in its action taken note has replied as follows:

“Presently, the incentive of IHHLs under SBM(G) Phase-II is Rs. 12,000/-. The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. Any changes in the incentive will be brought to the notice of the Committee”.

32. The Committee in its 1st Report on DFG (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti – Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation recommended the Department to consider revision of the incentive of Rs. 12,000/- being given for construction of one unit of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) which was based on assessment of the year 2014. However, the Committee note that in this regard, the Department through its Action Taken Replies has merely stated that the said recommendation of the Committee has been noted. The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Department especially in view of the fact that the Parliamentary Committee has raised this issue from time to time and urged the Department to reconsider the incentive amount. Taking cognizance of the fact that this amount was fixed way back on the year 2014 assessment, and since then cost of construction materials and other inputs has increased substantially, the Committee once again urge the Department to take necessary steps in this regard so that the objective of the Mission to ensure that all rural families have access to toilets may be achieved.

CHAPTER II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

RECOMMENDATION NO.1

Analysis of Demands

The Committee note that the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation has been entrusted with the responsibility of implementing two major Centrally Sponsored Schemes, i.e., Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) through which support is extended to the State Governments in their endeavor to provide safe and adequate piped drinking water to every household in rural areas within the targeted period and also provide rural sanitation infrastructure. Hence, the budgetary planning of the Department spins around these two Schemes.

The Committee further note that an amount of Rs. 77,390.68 crore has been allocated for the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation for the Financial Year 2024-25. This is an increase of Rs.167.68 crore over the Budget Estimate of 2023--2024 and Rs. 358.03 crore over the Revised Estimate of 2023-2024. The Committee also find that Rs. 70,162.90 crore and Rs. 7192.00 crore has been allotted at BE stage for JJM and SBM(G) respectively during the fiscal year 2024-25. The said allocation is almost identical to the last fiscal year 2023-24.

The Department reveals that against the demand for allocation of an amount of Rs. 1,00,000 crore, an amount of Rs.70,162.90 crore has been allocated under JJM at BE stage for 2024-25. Further, Ministry of Finance has restricted the utilization of Rs.22,964 Crore considering the total approved outlay of Central share of Rs. 2,08,652 Crore as per the Cabinet approval for restructuring the subsuming of erstwhile NRDWP into JJM in August, 2019. Henceforth, budgetary allocation of this fiscal year is effectively short by Rs.52,801 crore.

Further, the Committee has noted that under SBM(G)-II, Rs. 16,088.08 crore was projected in Annual Implementation Plan for 2024-25. Considering the fact that, States also have to contribute their shares (in proportion of Centre-States shares of 90:10 for North-Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of J&K, 100% from Centre to remaining UTs and 60:40 for other States), the Committee apprehend that the

present allocation for fiscal year 2024-25 of Rs. 7,192 crore may be inadequate to meet the planned targets of the States/UTs.

The Committee is aware that the Department may be seeking additional allocation of funds through Supplementary Grants, if required, based on the performance and requirements of the States during 2024-25.

While adequate finance is crucial for the expeditious implementation of both the aforesaid Schemes, the Committee also expresses concern over the increasing liability created by the arrangement of Extra Budgetary Resources. This aspect needs to be looked into while working out the budgetary provisions. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Government to take up this matter with the Ministry of Finance - Department of Expenditure and ensure provision of adequate budgetary resources to enable the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to achieve all its intended objectives at the earliest.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

In August 2019, Cabinet approved restructuring and subsuming of erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) into Jal Jeevan Mission – ‘Har Ghar Nal Se Jal’ with an aim to provide the Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024. The estimated outlay of the mission was of Rs. 3.60 lakh Crore, out of which Central share was Rs. 2.08 lakh Crore. Almost entire Central share approved by the Cabinet, without any Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR), has been released to the eligible States, though additional funds are required for completion of the approved schemes.

Further, Hon'ble Finance Minister during her budget speech 2025- 26 has announced extension of Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028 with an enhanced total outlay. Accordingly, Department is actively considering the proposal for continuation of JJM beyond the approved period and outlay. In 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 67,000 Crore has been allocated for implementation of the Mission.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (SBM-G)

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of Rs. 12298.20 crore was raised in 2018-19 and 2019-20 in seven tranches through NABARD as per the Budget Announcement and Letter of Authorization (LoA) issued by Ministry of Finance after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet. As per the LoA issued by Ministry of Finance and accordingly as per the MoA signed between DDWS,

NABARD and SPM-NIWAS (the receptacle agency for the servicing the EBR and its interest), the EBR principle amount to be repaid after 10 years in single bullet payment and till then the semi-annual interest is to be paid to the NABARD for the outstanding EBR amount. Accordingly, interest for the above EBR amount is paid to NABARD from the budget allocated to DDWS in each financial year. No EBR was raised under SBM(G) after 2019-20. Any requirements of funds for the programme is demanded by DDWS through Budget Estimate and supplementary grants as required.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.2

Under-utilization of funds under Jal Jeevan Mission scheme

The Committee note that the financial performance of JJM during the current FY 2024- 25 has not been encouraging. For the current fiscal year Rs. 70,162.90 Crore was allocated and the so far (as on 22.10.2024) an amount of Rs. 21,554.09 Crore i.e. 30.72 % of total allocation has only been utilized. Central-State fund utilization is Rs.53,236.15 Crore in 2024- 25 (as on 23.10.2024) which is the lowest in comparison to the last two fiscal years.

While analyzing State-wise financial performance, the Committee find that out of the total of 4.09 Crore remaining households, 3.96 Crore households are in 13 major States (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) who seem to be lagging behind, in achieving the targets and objective of JJM and the total expenditure and funds drawn by these States out of Central Share, as on date in comparison to the last fiscal year, is not encouraging and may not result in helping them to achieve their targets expeditiously.

Taking cognizance of this issue, the Committee recommend that the Department make concerted efforts in close coordination with the States and implementing agencies to expedite their efforts in order to achieve the targets and objectives of JJM in a time bound manner by fully utilizing the allocated funds during the current fiscal year.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

As stated above, almost entire fund approved and allocated till March 2025 has been released to the eligible States and reported as utilized. A budgetary provision of Rs. 67,000 Crore has been made by Ministry of Finance for implementation of the

Mission in 2025-26. The Department is in process of obtaining approval for the proposed continuation of JJM during the extended period with enhanced total outlay.

Significant progress has been made in the State since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, towards enhancing access to tap water to rural households. At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, 3.23 Crore (16.71%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in the country. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 02.05.2025, around 12.37 Crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 02.05.2025, out of 19.36 Crore rural households in the State, more than 15.60 Crore (80.58%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes and the remaining 3.76 Crore households are likely to be covered by the States as per their plans during the envisaged timelines of December, 2028. For expeditious achievement of envisaged objectives, Department is closely monitoring and reviewing the progress made by the States exhaustively.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.3

Slow Rate of Saturation in regard to Har Ghar Jal Status and underperforming States/ UTs

The Committee is concerned and dismayed that since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in 2019, only 11 States viz. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, DNH&DD, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Puducherry, Punjab and Telangana have reached their Saturation level by achieving Har Ghar Jal Status.

The Committee note that States have reported that long gestation period of Multi Village Schemes, lack of dependable ground water sources in drought-prone & desert areas, geogenic contamination, terrain challenges in hilly & forested areas, lack of technical capabilities in the States, delay in clearances from nodal agencies, availability of matching State share, especially during CoVID-19 pandemic associated lockdown, etc. have slowed down the pace of implementation for programme in underperforming States.

The Committee further note with concern that the Saturation timelines projected by States/UTs to achieve Har Ghar Jal Status would be till 2027, thereby extending the original 2024 timeline of JJM by three more years. The Committee also note that the physical progress in the remaining States/UTs range from 96.42% to 53.84%, however,

the performance of six States viz. Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala and Rajasthan are below national average under JJM.

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department play a more proactive role and provide all necessary assistance to all the States/UTs in achieving their set goals expeditiously, while focusing on underperforming States/UTs for successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee would like to be apprised of the tangible outcome of initiatives taken by the Department in this direction.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

To expedite the planning and implementation, as well as monitoring and handhold States/ UTs, Government of India has taken number of steps to plan and implement JJM in the whole country which *inter alia* includes discussions and consultation with States/ UTs, regular review of planning and implementation, workshops/ conferences/ webinars for capacity building and knowledge sharing, field visits by multi-disciplinary team to provide technical support, etc. Moreover, for online monitoring, JJM–Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and JJM–Dashboard has been put in place. Provision has also been made for transparent online financial management through Public Financial Management System (PFMS). In addition, to expedite the implementation of JJM, this department has also taken up SWSM and DWSM dashboards, Functionality Assessments and mapping of water pipelines on PM Gatishakti portal for effective monitoring of infrastructure created under the Mission.

Further, for extending guidance to States/ UT's officials and local village level functionaries to expand the water quality testing and reporting, surveillance of drinking water sources, sanitary surveys, setting up of laboratories, etc. Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework has also been released. States have also been advised to formulate a comprehensive O&M Policy *inter alia* including provisions for source sustainability and suitable provisions for development of efficient and sustained mechanism for collection of water tariff, finalised by the State in consultation with GP/ VWSC/ Pani Samiti. A draft framework for the comprehensive O&M Policy has also been shared with the States. So far, 20 States have finalized/ notified the O&M Policy and the remaining States have been advised to notify the respective O&M Policy before 30.06.2025.

As a result of above initiatives taken by the department, following progress has been done:

- (v) Around 20 Lakhs Kms of water pipelines have been uploaded on PM Gatishakti portal which is intended to provide multimodal connectivity infrastructures to various economic zones.
- (vi) To streamline the monitoring of piped water supply schemes, this department has developed SWSM dashboard. The dashboard will provide the basic information about the PWS, water quality details, functionality and financial details at single platform. Due to this development, apart from PHE department, O/o Chief Secretary, District Collectors and Panchayat Level functionaries will also be able to view/ monitor the progress of schemes.
- (vii) The field survey for Functionality Assessment of tap connections has been completed in 22,812 villages across the country. The findings of the report shall be shared with the States/ UTs to take corrective action on the gaps.
- (viii) The Department is regularly reviewing the progress with respective District Magistrates/ Deputy Commissioners/ Collectors, being head of DWSMs on various aspects of progress including scheme completion, HGJ certification, priority areas, PVTG habitations, coverage of schools and anganwadis, O&M etc.

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Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 11 of Chapter I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO.4

Piped water network-restoration of public infrastructure

The Committee note that laying/relaying of pipelines works is being done transparently and efforts are being made to put up DPR prepared by the States in Gati Shakti portal. States have been advised to ensure minimum damage to existing infrastructure such as roads/highways while executing rural water schemes and to restore the roads/highways immediately in case of any consequent damage. The Committee has also noted that funds available under JJM may be utilized for repairing or constructing streets or roads that get affected while laying water supply pipelines and States have been making provision for the same in the DPR.

The Committee also note that the Apex Committee of the State Water and Sanitation Mission headed by the Chief Secretary of the State with Secretaries in-charge of PHE/ Rural Water Supply, Rural Development (RD), Panchayati Raj (PR), Primary Education, Health, Finance, Planning, Information and Public Relations and a GOI representative as members, have been entrusted with the work of, inter-alia, coordination among various Departments and other agencies for convergence and successful implementation of the works of the JJM including the restoration of public infrastructure damaged during the execution of works under JJM.

The Committee has however observed that quality of restoration of public infrastructure damaged during execution of works under JJM is substandard in many States/UTs and needs visible improvement. The Committee desires to know the underlying reasons for such sub-standard restoration work and urge upon the Department to take all necessary remedial measures in convergence with other stakeholders/implementation agencies in the States/UTs concerned. The Committee is also of the firm opinion that since the role of the local elected representatives is vital in the welfare measures of the States/UTs, they may also invariably be involved in functioning of the Apex Committee of the State Water and Sanitation Mission.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

To avoid any hardships to the villagers, States have been advised to take up rural water schemes in a way with minimum damages to infrastructure such as roads/ highways and to restore the roads/ highways immediately in case of damages done while laying of pipelines for water supply systems. Further, funds available under JJM may be utilized for repairing or constructing streets or roads that get affected while laying water supply pipelines of rural water supply schemes taken up under JJM.

As per the JJM Guidelines, the State implementing agencies are to ensure the quality of materials used in construction/ restoration of roads etc. by getting it certified from accredited testing agencies. Further, under JJM, third-party inspection of quality of works undertaken is mandatory before making payment to the contractors. Reference for any sub-standard restoration work brought to the notice of NJJM are taken up with respective States with an advice to take requisite corrective action within a month.

The Apex Committee of the SWSM mainly responsible for policy guidance and overall planning, strategizing, and implementation of JJM in the State of implementation of the Mission. Further, recognizing the key role Hon'ble Members of Parliament (MP)/ elected representatives can play in mobilizing the local community and empowering them to ensure assured piped water supply in rural homes, provisions have been made

in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission to enable their participation to make Jal Jeevan Mission truly a people's movement, i.e. 'Jan Andolan'. In this regard, an advisory has been issued to all States/ UTs elaborating the roles of MPs wherein States/ UTs have been specifically requested to ensure that:

- iv.) Hon'ble MPs are consulted while preparing District Action Plans for water supply schemes and are also invited as 'special invitees' in all the DWSSM meetings;
- v.) convening of State/ District level DISHA meeting on regular intervals, for monitoring the progress of implementation of JJM; and
- vi.) invitation to various official functions organized for bhoomipujan, inauguration/ commissioning of schemes, etc. for which district/ divisional level officers to be sensitized.

To instill the 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. Some of the major initiatives taken up under the mission for participation of rural community are listed as under:

- Around 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).
- More than 14,000 NGOs/ VOs/ Women SHGs/ CBOs/ Trusts/ Foundations referred as ISAs are engaged across the country to facilitate community participation at all levels of planning, implementation, management, operation and maintenance of in-village water supply systems and contribution.

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Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 14 of Chapter I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO.6

Sustaining water availability/sources of water for Jal Jeevan Mission

The Committee notes that under JJM it is envisaged that 55 liters of potable tap water per household is being provided to 78.74% rural households as on 23.10.2024. The major sources for water under JJM are 52% Ground water and 48% Surface Water. The Committee are of the view that post implementation phase of JJM, long time sustainability of water source is paramount for the success of the Mission and desire that the department should make concerted efforts in coordination with State Governments to formulate schemes/strategy for Water conservation in rural areas. Furthermore, the Committee stresses the need for revival and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies in rural areas including bore-wells, rain water harvesting, recharging of ground water, desilting of water bodies, innovative methods to conserve excess water during seasonal floods, technological intervention to identify dark block/water stressed areas and integrated approach to address water scarcity in these areas. The Committee, therefore, desires that a coordinated approach taking onboard all stakeholders and educating rural masses on the importance of water conservation, revival and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies is vital to attain assured supply of water in all rural habitations. The Committee may be apprised of the measures taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Under the Mission, States have been advised for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rainwater recharge, rejuvenation of existing water bodies, reuse of greywater, etc., in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc.

JJM's focus on source sustenance integrates water conservation with broader development works, including the revival and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, desilting, and innovative floodwater conservation methods. States are also leveraging technology to identify water-stressed block areas, adopting an integrated approach to address scarcity. This aligns with the mission's adaptability to India's diverse geographical and climatological terrains, as evidenced by the strategic shift to 48% surface water-based schemes from an initial 15% estimate, ensuring long-term functionality of tap connections.

Extensive efforts have been made to educate rural communities about the importance of water conservation, emphasizing sustainable water use practices. Additionally, JJM has implemented targeted initiatives to raise awareness among school students, integrating water conservation education into school curricula to foster a culture of responsibility towards water resources from a young age.

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) has also taken various steps to address water scarcity issues in drought-prone areas and manage excess water issues in flood-prone regions in the country are as follows: -

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km including Odisha (1.19 Lakh Sq. km area). The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through demand side and supply side interventions.
- CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall including construction of about 22 thousand Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in Odisha. DPR has to be prepared by the concerned line department of the respective State Government at an implementable level like any other water supply project or city development project. The Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been circulated to all the States/UTs and is being implemented in one district in each state through convergence with state schemes.
- National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which *inter-alia* advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. It also *inter-alia*, advocates conservation of river, river bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation. Further, encroachment and diversion of water bodies and drainage channels must not be allowed and wherever, it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA in the country by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 and amendments dated 29.03.2023. The guidelines also advise States/ UTs to review to work further towards crop rotation/ diversification/ other initiatives to reduce overdependence on groundwater.
- Besides, Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

Further, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign aiming to encourage water conservation at grass-root levels with people's participation was launched in 2019 in 256 water stressed districts of the country. Moreover, recognizing the importance of sustainable water management especially for drinking water availability, JSA-CTR was implemented with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water" in 2023. Similarly, in 2024, JSA is being implemented with the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti" from 09.03.2024 to 30.11.2024 emphasizing the pivotal role played by women in the field of water conservation.

To formalize this commitment, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the National JJM and States/UTs will ensure regular monitoring and sustained water service delivery to GPs and villages. Community engagement is at the heart of these efforts, with campaigns like "Jal Sanchay" and "Jal Utsav" fostering local participation and integrating cultural values into water conservation initiatives. Through these concerted efforts, States/UTs are not only on track to achieve JJM objectives by 2028 but are also poised to surpass Sustainable Development Goal 6 well before 2030.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.7

Operational and Maintenance work

The States/ UTs have been advised to meet O&M cost and sustainability of rural water supply infrastructure through various measures as prescribed in the operational guidelines of JJM. For long term sustainability, a comprehensive O&M policy including features such as, handing over of schemes to Panchayats/Pani Samitis, user charges, sufficient financing specially to cover expenses on account of energy bills, skilling, and deployment of local persons for O&M and water quality surveillance activities, is being put in place by States/UTs. However, as reported, only 12 States/UTs have notified O&M policies for sustainability of rural water infrastructure. States which are lagging behind, have attributed i) Lack of institutional capacity, ii) Financial Constraints and iii) Coordination Challenges, as factors adversely affecting timely formulation and functionality of O&M policies. The Committee fails to comprehend the reasons for such dismal efforts shown by the States in notification of their O&M policies. The Committee expresses concern over the approach shown by the Department, whereby all responsibilities for O&M were shifted to the States, despite being aware that an effective O&M policy is essential for long term sustainability of JJM. The Committee also expresses concern over lack of a comprehensive O&M policy even though JJM is in its fifth year of implementation having achieved the milestone of providing tap water connections to about 78.74% rural households in the country. The Committee also took a note of the situation that Financial constraints is a significant concern for many States proving to be a hurdle in notifying their O&M policy despite all the available arrangements provisioned under JJM by the Government of India. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department take pro-active measures and provide all necessary assistance to the States/UTs in notifying their O&M policy at the earliest and its successful implementation at ground level. The Committee may be apprised of the measures taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

For long term sustainability, a comprehensive O&M policy including features such as, handing over of schemes to Panchayats/ Paani Samitis, provisions for source sustainability and suitable provisions for development of efficient and sustained mechanism for collection of water tariff finalized by the State in consultation with GP/ VWSC/ Pani Samiti, sufficient financing specially to cover expenses on account of energy bills, skilling, and deployment of local persons for O&M and water quality

surveillance activities, should be put in place by States/UTs. A draft framework for the comprehensive O&M Policy has also been shared with the States. So far, 20 States have finalized/ notified the O&M Policy and the remaining States have been advised to notify the respective O&M Policy before 30.06.2025. Further, a diagnostic matrix consisting of 19 major components of the Model O&M Policy have also been shared with States to assess readiness of the State/ UT to effectively/ efficiently operate, manage and sustain the rural PWSs against different anticipated incidents/ parameters of operation and maintenance phase.

Moreover, linking of notification of O&M Policy of the respective State to release of central grants-in-aid under JJM, proposed for extended phase of implementation of the Mission, is also under consideration of this Department.

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Comment of the Committee
(Please see Para No. 24 of Chapter I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO.8

Water quality Testing Laboratories & NABL Accreditation

The Committee notes that 1,571 out of total 2,160 Water Quality Testing Laboratories in rural areas are NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) accredited. Getting accreditation from NABL would not only endorse the testing results provided by these Laboratories but will also impact credibility to the efforts of the Department in ensuring the supply of quality water to the rural areas. Also, keeping in view the number of villages i.e. 5,86,655 in the Country, the number of Water Quality Testing Laboratories are insufficient and would not be able to achieve their objective. The Committee, in their successive Reports has stressed the need for having more water testing laboratories to provide quality potable water to the rural populace. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Department prepare time-bound Plan for all such Laboratories for getting accreditation by NABL at the earliest and impress upon the States/UTs to enhance number of Water Quality Testing Laboratories in rural areas.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

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. As per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities inter alia which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

All States/ UTs have been advised that all district must have district level laboratory. In bigger States, at the regional level, district level lab should be upgraded into State level lab in different regions of the State. And the existing network of drinking water quality testing laboratories in the State may be reviewed and strengthened by setting up/ exploring Public Private Partnership for additional labs at regional level, district level and block/ sub-division level in the State. Department has been reviewing the status of drinking water quality testing laboratories with States/ UTs from time to time through several meetings including conference, review meetings through video conferences, field visits, etc. and requesting States/ UTs to take up required measures to strengthen it.

In order to ensure that the labs are equipped with facilities, States have been advised for accreditation of Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratories as per IS/ISO/IEC:17025 at least for parameters of basic water quality importance and other parameters as per local conditions. In order to address shortfall in accreditation of water quality testing laboratories, the Department has been exploring the possibility of getting laboratories accredited/ recognized by other accreditation bodies as per IS/ISO/IEC:17025. Meetings were also held with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Quality Council of India (QCI) and various laboratory accreditation bodies to discuss and address issues such as paucity of assessors and difficulties in getting slots for accreditation purpose.

As reported by States/UTs, as on 02.05.2025, there are 2,183 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. State, regional/ district, sub-

division, block level, mobile level laboratories in the country. Out of these, 1,612 laboratories (74%) have been accredited/ recognized. Further, the States have been advised to get all the remaining district level laboratories accredited/ recognized on or before 30.06.2025. Further, 521 Water Treatment Plant level laboratories under JJM have also been identified for recognition.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.10 & 11

Performance Audit of JJM

Jal Jeevan Mission is in the fifth year of its launch and nearing the target date for its envisaged goals (as per data available on JJM, IMIS, around 15.06 Crore i.e. 77.97% out of around 19.32 Crore rural households have access to potable tap water supply as on date). To assess the functionality of tap water connection provided under the mission, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation undertakes annual assessment through an independent third-party agency, based on standard sampling. The last comparable functionality assessment was conducted in 2022 and Functionality Assessment-2024 is still in progress. The Committee note that there was no annual assessment in 2023 and the present data on functionality of tap water connection is not updated.

Since, annual assessment of functionality is essential for ensuring long term source and system sustainability and also for carrying out corrective measures based on its findings by States/UTs to maintain system continuity, the Committee recommend that the department should make sincere efforts to expedite Functionality Assessment 2024 and share its findings with States/UTs at the earliest.

Further, as the JJM is in its fifth year of launch and nearing the target date for its envisaged goals, the Committee also recommends that in order to ascertain its effective implementation, the Department may carry out performance audit of achievements made.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department has received the final report of the Functionality Assessment survey and approval of the Department on the report is in final stages and will be released and shared with States shortly for requisite course correction. The

recommendation of performance audit of achievements made has also been noted in this Department for requisite action.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.12

Pending statutory and other Clearances

The Committee note that various statutory and other clearances are required to be obtained by the State Governments and its implementing agencies (State PHED) for the implementation of JJM projects. The department has nominated a dedicated Deputy Secretary level nodal officer to coordinate with various Central Ministries and respective State Departments for facilitating various clearances required during the implementation of JJM.

As on 23.10.2024, against 2,888 clearances, 2,264 have been accorded so far by various agencies and 624 clearances are pending across various States out of which 12 clearances are pending at Government of India level. The Committee while taking a note of the pending clearances recommend that the Department should make concerted efforts in close coordination with Central Ministries and respective State Departments and implementing agencies to expedite the pending clearances in a time bound manner in order to facilitate timely execution of JJM projects.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Nomination of a nodal officer in the Department for coordinating with Central nodal Ministries/ Departments/ agencies viz. M/o EF&CC, M/o RTH, NHAI, M/o Railways etc. to facilitate the States in obtaining Statutory/ other clearances. Further, regular review meetings are also being taken up with these central agencies and States level officers by Secretary, DDWS.

As on date, the process of clearances has been streamlined by online collecting the schematic information on JJM IMIS and capturing the events requiring GoI interventions. So far, States have applied for 3,343 clearances and action has been completed in 3,006 projects leaving 337 clearances pending across various States. Details are placed at **Annex-I**.

Out of the total pendency of 337 cases, as reported by the User agencies/ State PHED, the details of the pending clearance at Government of India level are provided in table below:

S. No.	State	Forest	NHAI	Railways	GAIL	Others	Total
1	Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	0	0	1
2	Kerala	1	4	4	0	1	10
3	Madhya Pradesh	36	0	0	0	0	36
4	Rajasthan	3	1	0	0	0	4
5	Uttar Pradesh	3	4	25	0	0	32
6	West Bengal	0	1	0	0	1	2
Total		43	11	29	0	2	85

Department is regularly following up with the involved agencies for expediting the clearances of all the pending schemes/ projects at the earliest.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.13

Physical performance of SBM(G)-II

Having achieved the outcomes of Open Defecation Free, in order to focus on ODF Plus activities i.e. ODF Sustainability and to cover all villages with Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), Phase II of SBM (G) was approved in February, 2020 to be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 .

The major components of the SBM (Grameen)-II are:-

- Construction of Individual household latrines (IHHLs)
- Construction of Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs)
- Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and Capacity Building

However, the Department has conceded that the performance of States under SBM(G)-II during the initial years of implementation was not as planned in the Annual Implementation Plans due to various reasons such as prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic, lack of technical knowhow, State specific issues such as remote areas,

difficult terrain, hydro geological conditions etc. However, the Committee is very concerned to observe that Targets viz-a-via Achievements made under the Mission during the last four years in respect of SLWM are much below to their planned targets (only 34.60 targets achieved in SWM and 57% targets achieved in LWM during the last five years 2020-21 till 2023-24) whereas target achieved in respect of ODF Plus (Model) villages during the last five years is only 56%. Further, targets viz-a-viz achievements made in respect of Individual Household Latrines and Community Sanitary Complexes during the last five years are also much below their expected goals in so far as only 31% and 8% targets are achieved during 2024-25 as on October, 2024 under both the components respectively.

The Committee while expressing concern over the said underperformance leading to slow progress of the Mission, recommends that the department make concerted efforts in coordination with all States/UTs to identify and address all the impeding issues in order to fast track the implementation of the Mission Goals and objectives within the targeted time-line.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

DDWS is continuously pursuing with the States and supporting them so that implementation of the programme can be speeded up at ground level. Regular review meetings, technical workshops with the States/UTs are being conducted. For each State/UT, an officer (at Deputy Secretary and Director levels) have been made area officer who regularly gets in touch with the States to review the programme and to know the issues being faced by the State/UT in implementation of the programme. Secretary (DDWS), Joint Secretary & Mission Director (SBM-G) and area officers in the Department regularly undertake visits to the States to see the progress at ground level. The engagement with the States/UTs is being continuous and vigorous review of implementation of the programme is being done through review meetings, reports, MIS etc. The program has been extended upto 2025-26 from the balance savings under given outlay to improve the physical progress.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076) Dated: 16th May, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.14 & 15

Financial performance

The Committee noticed the trend of continuous underutilization of allocated funds during the last three years despite reduction at RE Stage, although it was on marginal scale during the last two financial years. However, Rs. 1,411.46 crore have been utilized out of total allocation of Rs.7,192.00 crore in the current financial year as on 23.10.2024.

The Committee has further noticed that a substantial portion of the budgetary allocation ranging from 9.15% to 17.21% had been spent on payment of interest on Extra Budgetary Resources during the last five years. During the current Financial year, Rs. 1,033.30 (14% of budgetary allocation) has been earmarked for payment of interest on EBR thereby reducing the availability of funds for effective utilization.

The Committee express concern over the slow pace of utilization of the funds, so far which is only 19.61% of the allocated budget and includes 36% expenditure on payment of interest on EBR and recommend the Department to make concerted efforts in close coordination with States and implementing agencies, so as to fully utilize the allocated budget in a time-bound manner and also prepare a road map for prudent utilization/release of fund in a more evenly manner during the current financial year, so as to avoid parking of large unused funds with the Single Nodal Account of State Treasury towards the end of the Financial year.

The Committee further urge the department to avoid raising funds through EBR as the same leads to payment of substantial interest and instead seek more budgetary Grants for the Mission.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

DDWS has been continuously pursuing with the State Government having slow pace of expenditure under SBM(G) through regular VC, meetings, D.O letters from the level of Secretary and Joint Secretary to the Chief Secretaries and concerned ACS/Pr. Secy/Secy for expediting the pace of implementation and expenditure under the programme. This Department has also made various amendments to the programme guidelines from time to time based on the discussions with the States to remove any hurdles/bottlenecks at ground level that impede the pace of the implementation.

Further, regarding parking of funds at Single Nodal Account of the State at the end of the Financial Year, it is pertinent to mention that to ensure Just-in-time release under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Ministry of Finance has introduced a new mechanism named SNA-SPARSH, in which the corresponding Centre share will be released to the State Scheme Account at RBI only after receipt of payment files from the State Government on daily basis which then will be transferred to the account of beneficiary/vendor on real time basis along with the corresponding State Share. Hence, this new system has eliminated the scope of parking of funds at SNA of the State Govt. as the funds in this system are released only on actual payment files (consolidating the bills raised by the implementing agencies). SBM(G) has been onboarded on this new system since 2023-24 on pilot basis and MoF has selected 30 States/UTs (except UTs without legislature) for onboarding this new system w.e.f. 01.04.2025 thus avoiding the scope of parking of funds at the State.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) of Rs. 12298.20 crore was raised in 2018-19 and 2019-20 in seven tranches through NABARD as per the Budget Announcement and Letter of Authorization (LoA) issued by Ministry of Finance after obtaining the approval of the Cabinet. As per the LoA issued by Ministry of Finance and accordingly as per the MoA signed between DDWS, NABARD and SPM-NIWAS (the receptacle agency for the servicing the EBR and its interest), the EBR principle amount to be repaid after 10 years in single bullet payment and till then the semi-annual interest is to be paid to the NABARD for the outstanding EBR amount. Accordingly, interest for the above EBR amount is paid to NABARD from the budget allocated to DDWS in each financial year. No EBR was raised under SBM(G) after 2019-20. Any requirements of funds for the programme is demanded by DDWS through Budget Estimate and supplementary grants as required.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.17

Functional Assessment of key ODF plus parameters

The Committee lauds the achievements made under SBM(G)-II wherein 5,57,468 villages out of 5,87,529 villages have declared themselves ODF Plus as on date, under different categories. The Committee notes that the number of villages covered with Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management as on 24.10.2024 are 3,68,274 while 3,987 blocks out of total 7,155 blocks are covered with Plastic Waste

Management Units/urban MRF and 5,30,440 vehicles are available in rural areas for SWM.

The Committee observed that the department has carried out Swachh SurvekshanGrammen (SSG)-2023, a yearly exercise, through a third-party survey agency, to assess and verify results claimed by the States and Districts on various households sanitation parameters. The Survey covered 17,304 villages in 729 Districts across India and 85,901 public places namely schools, anganwadis, public health centres, haat/bazaars/religious places etc. in these 17,304 villages. Around 2,60,059 Households were interviewed for their feedback on SBM(G) related issues.

The Committee feels that the scale of the survey is not adequate to map the functionality of key ODF plus parameters and will give an incomplete projection/report. The Committee, also expresses reservation on the credibility of the third party survey agency, their selection procedures and methodology for survey, veracity of their findings and recommend that the Department devise a more comprehensive and dynamic monitoring mechanism/system for functionality assessment of the key ODF Plus parameters.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025 is being conducted by the Department through a third-party agency which has been hired through an open tender by following the Quality and Cost Based Selection system. With regards, to the scale of the Survey, compared to the previous rounds of the survey, the coverage of SSG-2025 has been significantly expanded. This includes an increase in the number of villages and districts surveyed, a larger sample size, and the introduction of citizen feedback through a dedicated mobile application.

SSG-2025 envisages to cover 21,000 villages across 761 districts in India. It will assess around 1,05,000 public places, including schools, anganwadis, public health centres, markets, religious places, etc., within these villages. SSG-2025 will also cover District/ Block survey for approx. 1746 Plastic waste management units (PWMUs) along with backward and forward linkages and linkages with urban MRF, approx. 875 GOBARDhan plants, approx. 983 Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) assets and coverage of District with FSM facilities and FSM linkages with STP/ FSTP, including functionality and O&M of SLWM asset and approx. 200 Swachhta Green Leaf Rating (SGLR) Assets. Additionally, feedback will be collected from approximately 3,36,000 households on issues related to the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)].

To ensure high-quality outcomes, the methodology for conducting SSG-2025 has been finalized by a Technical Committee, which includes a member from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Further, to ensure the veracity of the survey findings, robust arrangements have been put in place for data collection using digital tools such as Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). Real-time tracking of data, along with measures such as geo-fencing, will be employed at the time of data capture to ensure accuracy, authenticity, and transparency throughout the process. The photographic evidences uploaded through CAPI shall be checked in real-time and validated by the Monitoring Executives in the Quality Assurance Cell of the agency. A Multi-layer monitoring of fieldwork has been envisaged to strengthen the data quality, including spot checks, back-checks, review of field check tables and continuous supportive supervision. In addition to this, after the completion of each round of survey, the findings of the same are shared with the State Government for taking remedial measures wherever required.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

RECOMMENDATION NO.18 & 19

Solid Waste Management and Plastic Waste Management in Rural areas

The Committee note that Plastic Waste Management is one of the key component envisaged under SBM(G)-II for managing of non-biodegradable waste at Block level to ensure visual cleanness of the Villages. A funding of Rs.16 Lakhs per block has been provisioned for establishing Plastic Waste Management Unit under SBM(G)-II. In regard to SWM, the Committee note that 4,23,456 villages out of 5,86,655 villages have provision for SWM arrangements with the help of 5,30,440 Sanitation vehicles. The Committee expressed apprehension on the number of Sanitation vehicles and desires to know their categories.

Further, the Committee while being satisfied with the achievements made by the majority of States/UTs towards SWM Saturation, however, express concern over the availability of insufficient vehicles for Sanitation services in States/UTs specially in those States who have either achieved cent percent SWM targets such as Sikkim, or in those States where the gap towards SWM saturation is 25% or below viz. Karnataka (2%), Uttararakhand (3%), Madhya Pradesh (10%), Mizoram(13%) and Himachal Pradesh(25%).

Further, the Committee express concern over those States/UTs who are lagging behind in achieving SWM saturation viz Manipur, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Punjab and Nagaland and the number of blocks covered with Plastic Waste Management Units/urban MRF which is only 56% to the total Blocks (7155 Blocks) and the functional Plastic Waste Management Units which is only 43% to the total number of Plastic Waste Management Units(3987 PWMU/urban MRF).

The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department intensify their efforts on issues/challenges withholding the execution of works/activities in States/UTs lagging behind and pursue more vigorously with the agencies concerned and State Government for accomplishment of goals within the targeted period.

The Committee also recommend the department take proactive measures in coordination with the States UTs to augment various activities under SWM and PWM viz. arrangements of sufficient number of Sanitation Vehicles for collection and transportation of solid waste; development of forward linkage for plastic waste management; and arrangements for higher number of functional Plastic Waste Management Units in order to achieve goals of SBM(G)-II.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation is actively supporting all States and Union Territories through regular meetings, video conferences, and advisories. The Department recognizes the recommendations received and is dedicated to providing targeted assistance to tackle challenges related to the availability of vehicles for sanitation services, as well as other essential Solid Waste Management (SWM) assets—especially in States and UTs that have achieved less than 25% progress in SWM.

Funding for the procurement of sanitation vehicles is available through the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBMG] fund and the tied grant from the 15th Finance Commission. During the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) meetings for FY 2025–26, extensive discussions were held with individual States regarding progress, challenges, and actionable solutions related to Solid Waste Management, including Plastic Waste Management.

To enhance Plastic Waste Management, the Department is conducting dedicated video conferences with all relevant States and UTs to better understand their strategies, identify bottlenecks, and gather recommendations for further improvement.

It is important to note that, due to ongoing support and follow-up, States and UTs are making significant strides in SWM and PWM. The number of SWM villages has increased from 4.24 lakh to 5.09 lakh, and the number of sanitation vehicles has risen from 5.30 lakh to 6.17 lakh.

The committee has identified States lagging in SWM—namely Sikkim, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Mizoram—each with a gap exceeding 25%. However, these States have made substantial progress, improving from 75% to nearly 100%, with the exception of Himachal Pradesh, which still has a 14% gap in SWM.

Furthermore, coverage in Plastic Waste Management has increased from 56% to 67% across a total of 7,154 Blocks, and the number of functional Plastic Waste Management Units and Urban Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) has grown from 43% to 51.20%, encompassing a total of 4,832 PWMUs/urban MRFs.

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CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

NIL

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION NO.5

Water Quality issue in Rural Areas

The Committee note that 12,167 rural habitations in different Districts of the country are still affected with water contamination despite being priority areas under NWQSM launched in 2017 and JJM implemented in 2019. Assam and Rajasthan, two of the worst water contaminated States would be likely to achieve status of Har Ghar Jal by 2026 and 2027 respectively. All NWQSM identified 27,544 Arsenic/Fluoride affected habitations have been provided safe drinking water through Community water purifications plants as an interim measure. Further, as on 23.10.2024, in 61 identified JE/AES affected districts in five States, 80.21% rural household have been provided tap water supply.

In a nut shell, as on 23.10.2024, out of around 78.67 lakh rural households in water quality affected habitations, more than 52.19 lakh (66.34%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes and the remaining 26.47 lakh households are likely to be covered by the States as per their plans.

The Committee are of the firm and considered view that remedial measures to address the serious issue of water quality is to be taken by the Department with a sense of urgency and seriousness, as continuous use of unsafe drinking water is a serious health hazard to millions of people residing in the water quality affected areas. The Committee are also of the view that piped water supply is the only solution to tackle water quality problems and therefore, a time bound Plan is needed to be put in operation in the remaining contamination affected areas to achieve this target. Moreover, the Committee also urge the Department to launch a nationwide awareness programme to educate rural masses about the hazards of contaminated water by involving all stakeholders, i.e., Centre, State, Local Authorities, Civil Society, NGOs, etc., active in the field. The Committee desires to be apprised of the measures taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

JJM envisages to provide every rural household with potable water of prescribed quality (BIS:10500), on regular and long-term basis through tap connection. Further, potable water supply to water quality-affected habitations is a priority and efforts are made to ensure safe drinking water to all quality-affected villages especially those affected with Arsenic and Fluoride contamination through Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements till the commissioning of piped water supply scheme based on a safe water source. As reported by States, all the Arsenic (314) and Fluoride (250) affected habitations have been provided with potable water through CWPPs. Thus, as reported by the States/ UTs, all habitations in rural area of the country are provided safe drinking water free from Arsenic and Fluoride contamination.

Further, as per the Operational Guidelines, States/ UTs can utilize up to 2% of their annual allocation of funds under JJM for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities, *inter-alia*, which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc.

In every village, 5 persons especially women are being trained for water quality testing and reporting. So far, more than 24.80 lakh women have been trained in different villages. Moreover, to encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened all the 2,180 water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate. Further, States have been advised to utilize services of degree science colleges for drinking water samples. In addition, this Department has suggested the nominal rates for testing of water samples which are suggestive for all States/ UTs.

Year-wise details of drinking water samples tested in labs and using FTKs are as under:

Year	No. of samples tested		Total no. of samples Tested
	in labs	using FTKs	
2014-15	40,03,841	27,73,861	67,77,702
2015-16	38,48,475	20,56,377	59,04,852
2016-17	39,41,186	10,57,530	49,98,716
2017-18	40,18,331	11,01,486	51,19,817

2018-19	39,15,038	11,09,941	50,24,979
2019-20	42,16,683	8,49,135	50,65,818
2020-21	49,00,963	38,17,824	87,18,787
2021-22	41,72,176	25,33,869	67,06,045
2022-23	62,19,775	96,23,912	1,58,43,687
2023-24	75,00,041	1,08,54,196	1,83,54,237
2024-25	82,68,247	93,84,186	1,76,52,433
2025-26 (As on 01.05.2025)	3,79,424	3,04,797	6,84,221

[Source: JJM-IMIS]

A 'Citizen Corner' was also developed by the Department on the JJM Dashboard. The corner included display of water quality test results in the public domain to further create awareness and build confidence among people about the quality of water supplies through the PWS in rural areas.

Further, the Department has requested all the stakeholders *inter alia* including Civil Societies, NGOs, SHGs, etc. to come forward and work together for generating awareness among rural masses for improved Water Quality Management in rural areas. In consultation with various stakeholders 'Concise Handbook for Monitoring Water Quality of Piped Drinking Water Supply to Rural Households' has been released in December 2024 for guidance to States/ UT's officials and their parastatal organizations for framing their own water quality monitoring and surveillance protocol as per their local requirements.

Further, in collaboration in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, a Standard Operating Procedures for Joint Action on Water Quality Monitoring and Health Outcomes was released to all State/ UTs outlining the joint actions, roles, and responsibilities at each level between functionaries of drinking water supply departments and health departments at the State/District/Village level, by engagement of the officials and staff mainly of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED)/ Rural Water Supply (RWS) department, and Health in the States/UTs for timely detection, prevention, management, and control of water-related diseases due to biological and chemical contaminants and their related health impacts through joint monitoring, preparedness, and timely response.

Moreover, in association with NITI Aayog, Jal Utsav was organized in 20 Aspirational Districts/Blocks from 6th to 20th November, 2024 for encouraging community participation in preservation and protection of water resources and instilling

a sense of responsibility towards efficient water use among households and water management among utilities and agencies. In this initiative, school students are being enrolled in water management activities, empowering them to act as catalysts for change within their families and communities.

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Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 21 of Chapter I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO.9

Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance

The Committee note that as per operational guidelines for implementation of mission, every State/ UT has to identify and train 5 persons preferably women in each village viz. ASHA workers, health workers, VWSC members, teachers, etc. to conduct water quality testing using Field Testing Kits (FTKs)/bacteriological vials at village level. States/ UTs have been advised to take requisite measures for making available adequate number of FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level. As reported by States/ UTs, so far, as on 23.10.2024, 24.72 lakh women from 5.07 lakh villages have been trained for water quality testing using FTKs. Further, under JJM, up to 2% of the allocation to States/ UTs can be utilized for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQM&S) activities, including for procurement of FTKs /H2S vials. The States have been advised to enable the public to get their water samples tested at laboratories at nominal rates which is recommended as Rs.600/- for 16 different parameters.

The Committee while appreciating the fact that, about 5.07 lakh villages have trained 24.72 lakh women for water quality testing using FTKs, has desired to know the ground reality of the progress made and whether any assessment has been made to ascertain the veracity of information uploaded by the States/UTs on JJM-Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) in this regard. The Committee are of the view that although 2% of the allocation to States/UTs can be utilized for WQM&S activities including procurement of FTKs/H2S vials, it is not a mandatory requirement and may not be used for the designated purpose by any State/UT. In such a scenario, the Committee apprehend the efficacy of WQM&S activities and water quality testing using FTKs and recommend the Department to revise operational guidelines of JJM suitable

for ensuring the earmarked 2% allocation be mandatorily used, only for the designated purpose.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Under JJM, States/ UTs can utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation of funds for Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance (WQM&S) activities *inter alia* which includes setting up and strengthening of water quality testing laboratories, procurement of equipment, instruments, chemicals, glassware, consumables, hiring of skilled manpower, surveillance by community using field test kits (FTKs), awareness generation, educational programmes on water quality, accreditation/recognition of laboratories, etc. As such, States as per their requirements may take up various activities under WQMS.

Department has been regularly reviewing the progress made by the States under various WQM&S activities from time to time. Further, for water quality surveillance, a thorough & dedicated online portal Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) has been put in place where the details of water samples collected, tested along with details of contamination found and remedial action taken is reported on daily basis. Further, tagging of the water sample collected for testing to household/location to ensure effective remedial measures is also proposed during the extended phase of the mission.

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Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 28 of Chapter I of the Report)

RECOMMENDATION NO.16

The Number of IHHLs and CSCs and incentives for IHHLs

The Committee observed that there is a reduction in the number of Individual Household Latrines(IHHLs) and Community Sanitary Complexes(CSCs) constructed during FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24 in comparison to the year FY 2020-21. The reasons for construction of substantial number of IHHLs in FY 2020-21 is attributed to the fact that majority of the left out households were identified post achievement of ODF status on be basis of base-line survey carried out in 2020-21. The department has been constantly asking the States/UTs to continue the Sanitation campaign so that no one is left behind and newly emerging households gets IHHLs. However, the Committee feel

that as the deadlines of the Mission is fast approaching, there is an urgent need for a renewed base-line survey in order to identify the left out households in order to avoid any gap in the implementation of the Mission.

Further, the Committee vide its earlier recommendations, having noted that an incentive of Rs.12,000/- for construction of one unit of Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) is being provisioned under SBM(G) to BPL and identified above poverty line households, have opined on the department the need to review and revise the per unit assistance appropriately in rural areas. Keeping in view the fact that the incentive amount of Rs. 12000/- per unit of IHHL was based on assessment of 2014, the Committee, therefore, reiterates its stand and recommend that the department consider revision of the incentive for IHHLs based on the present rate of inflation.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Presently, the incentive of IHHLs under SBM(G) Phase-II is Rs. 12,000/-. The recommendation of the Standing Committee has been noted. Any changes in the incentive will be brought to the notice of the Committee.

[OM No. H-11021/1/2024-Parliament-DDWS (E-file No.28076)Dated: 16thMay, 2025]

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No. 32 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER V
OBSERVATION/RECOMMENDATION IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLY OF
THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL AWAITED

NIL

NEW DELHI
08 August, 2025
17 Sravana, 1947 (Saka)

RAJIV PRATAP RUDY,
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Water Resources

Status of pending Clearances for Rural Water Supply Projects
(As on 02.05.2025)

Nodal Agency		Forests		NHAI		Railways		GAIL		Others		Total	
S. No.	State	Applied	Pending	Applied	Pending	Applied	Pending	Applied	Pending	Applied	Pending	Applied	Pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
2.	Assam	0	0	3	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
4.	Jharkhand	44	9	34	4	60	1	0	0	119	12	257	26
5.	Karnataka	12	3	9	0	4	0	0	0	5	0	30	3
6.	Kerala	106	21	68	24	96	8	0	0	66	2	336	55
7.	Madhya Pradesh	201	109	3	0	25	0	3	0	1	0	233	109
8.	Maharashtra	612	54	268	0	285	0	0	0	477	0	1,642	54
9.	Odisha	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
10.	Punjab	19	0	4	0	14	0	0	0	5	0	42	0
11.	Rajasthan	8	7	4	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	16	9
12.	Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
13.	Tamil Nadu	10	2	70	0	180	0	0	0	48	3	308	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	31	3	66	13	229	54	0	0	74	3	400	73
15.	West Bengal	35	0	10	1	1	0	0	0	11	1	57	2
	Total	1,081	208	541	44	910	63	3	0	808	22	3,343	337

Source: JJM-IMIS

[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE FIRST REPORT
(EIGHTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE**

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	19
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 19	Total – 16 Percentage– 84.21 %
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Recommendation Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Recommendation Nos. Recommendation Nos. 5, 9 and 16	Total – 3 Percentage – 15.78%
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited Para Nos. NIL	Total – 00 Percentage – Nil

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
WATER RESOURCES (2024-25) HELD ON 08 AUGUST, 2025.**

The Committee sat on Friday, the 08 August, 2025 from 1000 hours to 1100 hours in Committee Room '2', Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy - Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Narayandas Ahirwar
3. Shri Isha Khan Choudhury
4. Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya
5. Shri Bapi Haldar
6. Md. Rakibul Hussain
7. Shri Rodmal Nagar
8. Shri Dhaval Laxmanbhai Patel
9. Shri Vishaldada Prakashbapu Patil
10. Shri Mohite Patil Dhairyasheel Rajsinh
11. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi
12. Shri Dushyant Singh
13. Thiru. Tamilselvan Thanga

RAJYA SABHA

14. Shri Khiru Mahto
15. Smt. Mausam Noor
16. Shri Balyogi Umeshnath
17. Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Chander Mohan - Additional Secretary
2. Shri Ajay Kumar Sood - Director
3. Shri Umesh Bist - Under Secretary

2. At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration following four Draft Reports:

- (i) Sixth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the First Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation'.
- (ii) Seventh Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Second Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2024-25) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation'.
- (iii) Eighth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Third Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation'.
- (iv) Ninth Report on 'Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Fourth Report (18th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2025-26) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti - Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation'.

3. After some deliberation, the Committee adopted the aforesaid four draft Reports, without any modification. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports on their behalf to both the Houses of Parliament in the current Session.

The Committee then adjourned
