

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2307
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2024

CLEANING OF WATER TOWERS UNDER JJM

2307. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has allocated funds for maintenance and cleaning of water towers and supply pipelines under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the amount of funds allocated for the same in the State of Uttarakhand and its implementation?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) Since August 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States/ UTs, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household in the country. Drinking water is a state subject, and hence, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under the JJM, lies with State/UT Governments. The Government of India supports the states by providing technical and financial assistance.

In line with the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India, JJM Operational Guidelines emphasize the role of the Gram Panchayats in operations and maintenance of in-village water supply infrastructure. In this regard, a booklet titled ‘Margdarshika for Gram Panchayats & Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)’ has been shared with States/ UTs which *inter alia* gives guidance on the operation and maintenance of in-village infrastructure of water supply schemes by the Gram Panchayats or its sub-committee i.e. VWSC. Further, the States/ UTs have been advised to devise comprehensive operation and maintenance (O&M) policy for the water supply infrastructure created under JJM.

Under JJM, central grants are not available for O&M related activities of water supply schemes including maintenance and cleaning of water towers and supply pipelines, however, GPs can utilise finance commission tied grants, state finance commission grant, user-fee collection, etc. for this purpose.
