

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 713
ANSWERED ON 02/12/2024

JAL JEEVAN MISSION IN ASSAM

713. SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to State:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household i.e., Har Ghar Jal by 2024;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of villages which have achieved 100 per cent Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) under the JJM in Assam;
- (d) the steps being taken to address water quality issues under the JJM in rural areas of Assam there are scarcity of drinking water;
- (e) whether Government has taken any specific steps to ensure the progress of the JJM in the flood-prone areas of Assam; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

- (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to make provision for safe & potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on a regular & long-term basis to all rural households in the country. Towards this end, the Government of India launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to be implemented in partnership with States/ UTs, in August 2019. 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 Jal Jeevan Mission, lies with State/ UT Governments. The Government of India supports the states by providing technical and financial assistance.

Significant progress has been made in the country since the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, towards enhancing access to tap water to rural households. At the start of Jal Jeevan Mission in August 2019, only 3.23 crore rural households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, as reported by States/ UTs as on 26.11.2024, around 12.07 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 26.11.2024, out of 19.34 crore rural households in the country, around 15.31 crore (79.14%) rural households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

As reported by the state government of Assam, at the time of launch of Jal Jeevan Mission in the state on 15.08.2019, only 1.11 lakh (1.55%) rural households had tap water connections. Since

then, 57.41 lakhs additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on 26.11.2024, out of 71.94 lakh rural households in state, the provision of tap water supply is available to around 58.52 lakh (81.35%) rural households.

- (c) As reported by state government of Assam on JJM dashboard, out of 24,204 villages in the state, 7,976 villages are reported to have 100% functional household tap connections.
- (d) Under JJM, in allocating the funds to States/ UTs, including Assam, 10% weightage is given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants. Further, while taking up schemes to make provision of potable tap water supply to rural households, priority is given to quality-affected habitations.

To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed. As reported by States/UTs, as on 26.11.024, there are 2,160 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels viz. state, district, sub-division and/ or block level in the country including 82 in state of Assam. To encourage water quality testing to ensure potable drinking water supply, States/ UTs have opened water quality testing laboratories to general public for testing of their water samples at a nominal rate.

For the assuring the quality of the water, the States/ UTs have been advised to undertake testing of water quality on a periodic basis i.e. once in year for chemical and physical parameters, and twice in a year for bacteriological parameters and take remedial action wherever necessary, to ensure that the water supplied to households is of prescribed quality. The State-wise details of water quality test reported through WQMIS are available in public domain on JJM Dashboard.

States/ UTs have also been advised to identify and train 5 persons preferably women from every village to conduct water quality tests using FTKs/ bacteriological vials at village level and report the same on the WQMIS portal. So far, about 24.76 lakh women have been trained in the country including approx. 1.14 lakh in Assam.

Further, as informed by state government of Assam, all arsenic and fluoride affected habitations have been covered either in short term mitigation measure by installing community water purification plant (CWPP) for making provision of 8-10 lpcd of water for drinking and cooking purpose only or through piped water supply scheme with surface water source. Also, iron contaminated habitations are being covered through piped water supply schemes with iron treatment plants. Further, as on 01.04.2020, there were 19,949 iron contaminated habitations in the state out of which 2,272 are remaining to be covered with FHTCs. Assam has also initiated an innovative programme titled '*Jaldoot*' to sensitise school students about various aspects of drinking water including quality.

- (e) and (f) There is a provision under JJM, in consonance with guidelines of Ministry of Finance dated 06.09.2016 on Flexi Fund for Centrally Sponsored Schemes, wherein upto 25% of the fund available with the States, can be set aside by States, including Assam *inter-alia*, for undertaking mitigation/ restoration activities in case of natural calamities, including flood.

As informed by the state government of Assam, an initiative was taken to install piped water supply delivery points above 1 meter of high flood level so that safe water is provided during flood also.
