

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 739
ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025

DRINKING WATER SHORTAGE IN TAMIL NADU

739. Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of drinking water in different States of the country, including the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : Government of India is committed to make provision for safe & potable tap water supply in adequate quantity (55 lpcd), of prescribed quality and on a regular & long-term basis to all rural households in the country. Towards this end, the Government of India, in August 2019, launched the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to be implemented in partnership with States/UTs including Tamil Nadu. 'Water' is a state subject, and hence, the responsibility of planning, approval, implementation, operation, and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes, including those under JJM, 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 JJM, towards enhancing access to tap water for rural households. At the start of JJM 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 04.02.2025, around 12.21 crore additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 04.02.2025, out of 19.37 crore rural households in the country, approximately 15.44 crore (79.69%) households are reported to have tap water supply.

Similarly, as reported by Tamil Nadu, at the start of JJM in the state on 15.08.2019, only 21.76 lakh (17.37%) rural households had tap water connections. Since then, around 88.94 lakh additional rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as on

04.02.2025, out of 1.25 crore rural households in state, the provision of tap water supply is available to approximately 1.10 crore (88.37%) rural households.

Development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system in villages, is an integral part of JJM. To achieve this objective, following provisions have been made in operational guidelines for the implementation of JJM:

- i. Any water supply scheme undertaken under JJM is approved only after the recommendation of a Source Finding Committee (SFC) of the respective state government, to the effect that the identified water source through which the scheme is planned, has sufficient yield for sustaining water supply as per required norm, for the scheme design period.
- ii. Development/ strengthening/ augmentation of drinking water sources and infrastructure for bulk transfer of water, treatment, and distribution systems in water deficit drought-prone and desert areas without dependable ground water sources apart from creation of in-village water supply infrastructure.
- iii. Strengthening of drinking water sources in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Finance Commission grants to rural local bodies/ PRIs, MP & MLA's Local Area Development Fund, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR fund, etc.
