

19

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

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

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2022-23)

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

NINETEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 2023 / Magha, 1944 (Saka)

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)

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AND SANITATION**

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**(Action Taken by the Government on the Observations /
Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report on ‘Demands for
Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -
Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 10.02.2023
Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10.02.2023



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

February, 2023 / Magha, 1944 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	Page
Composition of the Committee	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER - I Report.....	1
CHAPTER – II Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.....	21
CHAPTER - III Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies.....	38
CHAPTER - IV Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee.....	39
CHAPTER - V Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited.....	45

ANNEXURES

I	Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 11.01.2023	46
II	Analysis of Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Sixteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee	47

**COMPOSITION OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
(2022-23)**

Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel - Chairperson

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2. Shri Vijay Baghel
3. Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan
4. Shri Bhagirath Choudhary
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary
6. Shri Guman Singh Damor
7. Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
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28. Shri Arun Singh
29. Sant Balbir Singh
30. Shri Pramod Tiwari
31. Vacant

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | Shri Chander Mohan | - | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Shri Ajay Kumar Sood | - | Director |
| 3. | Shri Ram Lal Yadav | - | Additional Director |
| 4. | Ms. Kiran Bhargava | - | Committee Officer |

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022-23) having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present the Nineteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in their Sixteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2022-23) of the Ministry of Jal Shakti -Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

2. The Sixteenth Report of the Committee was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 23 March 2022. The Action Taken replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received in this Secretariat on 20 July, 2022.

3. The replies of the Government were examined and the Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their sitting held on 11.01.2023.

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

New Delhi
07 February, 2023
18 Magha, 1944 (Saka)

Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Water Resources

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2022-23) deals with the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in their Sixteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation) for the year 2022-2023.

2. The Sixteenth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 23.03.2022 and was laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on the same date. The Report contained 18 Observations/Recommendations.

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

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

Serial Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18

Total:12
Chapter-II

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

Serial No. NIL

Total: NIL
Chapter-III

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

Serial Nos. 1, 5, 7, 12, 13 and 15

Total:06
Chapter-IV

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

Serial No. NIL

Total:00
Chapter-V

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. Analysis of Budgetary provision of Jal Jeevan Mission

Recommendation No.1 (Para No. 2.1 and 2.2)

6. The Committee noted that Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was announced in August, 2019 to enable every rural household to have assured and clean water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by 2024, which is being implemented in the States/UTs in a Mission Mode. As on March, 2022, out of 19.18 crore, 8.96 crore (46.48%) rural households had access to clean potable water supply at their homes. The Committee were happy to note that the State Governments/Union Territories of Haryana, Telangana, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & N Haveli and Puducherry have achieved cent percent target of providing tap water connections to households. The Committee also appreciate that States like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat which have achieved more than 90% household coverage and are expected to achieve cent percent coverage very soon. The Committee, however, expressed concern over the plight of bigger States like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu which are providing below 40% FHTCs to their households. The Committee, therefore, desired that the Department should impress upon these State Governments to take appropriate steps for providing tap water connections to all the households in keeping with the target year fixed.

The Committee further observed that as against the demand of Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for allocation of an amount of Rs. 91,258 crore, Rs. 60,000 crore only has been allocated for the year 2022-23. Keeping in view the fact that around 53.52% of rural households still require Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in different States/UTs, allocations under JJM for the year 2022-23 seems to be inadequate as the budgetary support provided is short by Rs. 31,258 crore against the initial demand. The Committee, therefore, urged the Department to strive to utilize the allocated funds at the earliest so that they have sufficient justification to ask for additional funds at the RE stage.

7. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Department has identified 13 major States having more than 9.08 Crore (95%) of the remaining households (HHs) across the Country and has been regularly impressing upon them to prioritize the coverage of remaining HHs. A recent meeting at the level of Secretary (DDWS) has also been held with these 13 States in Odisha to review the progress under JJM, identify challenges being faced, sharing experiences and best practices, etc.

Allocation of the fund for the year 2022-23 among the States/UTs have been completed. So far, in the current financial year i.e. in April & May, 2022, States/UTs reported to have utilized an amount of Rs. 5,664.85 Crore for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.”

8. The Committee note that as per the Action Taken Replies furnished by the Department allocation of funds to the States/UTs for the Financial Year 2022-23 has been completed. The Committee recommend that the Department should ensure that the allocated funds are released in a time bound manner so that the pace of the projects under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is not adversely affected due to lack of funds. Further, the Committee observe that initially the Department had sought an allocation of Rs. 91,258 crore under JMM, however, Rs. 60,000 crore only had been allocated for the year 2022-23. The Committee further observe that the States/UTs have utilized an amount of Rs. 5,664.85 only in the months of April- May 2022. The Committee are of the view that with this pace of utilization of funds, the Department may not be in a position to seek enhanced allocation of funds during the Revised Estimates stage. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Department should impress upon the State/UTs the benefits of the Scheme and recognize JJM as an opportunity for accessibility of funds for providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in rural households. Further, the Committee recommend that the Department should make concerted efforts to impress upon the Ministry of Finance for enhanced allocations at the stage of Revised Estimates under Jal Jeevan Mission.

Furthermore, the Committee observe that the target date set under JMM to achieve the target of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) to all households in rural India is 2024, which is fast approaching. The Committee note that mainly smaller States/UTs have been able to achieve cent percent target of providing tap water connections to households (HHs). By the Department’s own admission, the Department has identified 13 major States having more than 9.08 crore (95%) of remaining HHs across the country. In this connection, the Department has informed that recently a meeting at the level of Secretary (DDWS) has also been held with these 13 States in Odisha to review the progress under JJM, identify challenges being faced, sharing experiences and best practices, etc.

The Committee are of the considered view that holding such meeting can only be a step towards encouraging and engaging States to enhance the pace of implementation of the Scheme. The Committee, however, are interested in being apprised of the outcome of the meeting and the measures undertaken by the Department to overcome the challenges/bottlenecks being faced by various States. Further, the Committee are of the considered view that mechanism should be evolved to find optimal and innovative solutions to the problems being faced by major States, in consultation with concerned States/UTs along with other stakeholders including issues related to depletion of ground water, matching State share and its non-availability/delayed availability as well as contribution by local community. Further, the Committee desire that States may be incentivized to take appropriate measures for providing tap water connections to all the rural households in keeping with the target year fixed. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Department within three months of presentation of this Report.

B. Under-utilization of funds under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Recommendation No.2 (Para 2.3)

9. The Committee noted that during the fiscal year 2021-22, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Rs. 50,011/- crore was allocated at BE stage which was reduced to Rs. 45,011/- crore at RE stage, while the actual expenditure incurred was only Rs.28,238/- crore. While analyzing State wise financial performance, the Committee find that only three States namely Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya have utilized cent per cent of Central allocation of funds, while 11 States namely Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Sikkim, Nagaland, Assam, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram have utilized only 50% to 75%. Further, the Committee were surprised to note that bigger States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have utilized below 25 % of Central allocation. The Committee were dismayed to note the under-utilization of funds which clearly indicate lack of financial prudence and fiscal discipline, thus, adversely affecting the implementation and monitoring of the programme as a whole. This undoubtedly deprive the targeted beneficiaries' access to safe and clean potable water at their homes. The Committee, therefore, took into consideration such dismal performance pertaining to the fund utilization, urged the Department to initiate suitable corrective measures during the current financial year to achieve a better performance under the scheme and apprise the Committee of the action taken in this regard.

10. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Since the announcement of the mission, 6.40 (33.40%) Crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as of date, out of 19.14 Crore rural households across the country, 9.63 Crore (50.30%) households are reported to have potable tap water supply in their homes. States of Goa, Haryana and Telangana and UTs of A & N Islands, DNH & DD and Puducherry have provided tap water supply to all rural homes. As on date, every rural household in 108 districts and 1.53 lakh villages across the country have started getting tap water supply in their homes. The year-wise details of tap water connection provided so far, is as under:

(No. in lakh)

Time/ Year	Tap Water Connections	Cumulative Tap Water Connections
15.08.2019	3,23.63	3,23.63
2019-20	82.62	4,06.25
2020-21	3,22.62	7,28.87
2021-22	2,08.36	9,37.23
2022-23*	26.91	9,63.52

* as on 06.06.2022

However, State governments, during implementation of the programme, have *inter alia* indicated bottlenecks like uneven geographical terrain, scattered rural habitations, depletion of groundwater, adverse climatic conditions, delay in obtaining statutory/ other clearances, and extended periods of lockdowns in CoVID pandemic, price rise/ inflation etc. thereby delaying the implementation and fund utilization under the programme.

Further, delay in release and non-availability of matching State share also delayed utilization of fund. To address the issue, several meetings including conferences, workshops, review meetings through video conferences, field visits, etc. at highest levels are being held from time to time with States/ UTs, wherein they are advised to plan and expedite the implementation of the programme to achieve the goal in a time-bound manner.

In 2019-20, a sum of Rs. 10,000.66 Crore was allocated for the mission and the entire amount was utilized. Similarly, in 2020-21, Rs. 11,000 Crore was allocated and utilized. In 2021-22, for Jal Jeevan Mission, Rs. 45,011 Crore has been allocated in the Union budget and an amount of Rs. 40,125.64 Crore was utilized. In 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 60,000 Crore has been allocated for the implementation of the Mission.

Details of major review meetings held in 2022-23 are as under:

- i. Post budget discussions and webinar on Jal Jeevan Mission in February, 2022;
- ii. Joint review meetings with the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of UTs. Recently held with J&K and Uttar Pradesh in April, 2022;
- iii. Conference of Ministers in-charge of rural water supply of States at Guwahati, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Jaipur during February to April, 2022;
- iv. More than 110 State/ UT visits have been undertaken for understanding the JJM planning and implementation on the ground, key issues, challenges, suggesting measures to speed up the implementation as well as documenting good practices;
- v. Review meetings at Odisha in June, 2022.”

11. The Department in Action Taken Reply has furnished that out of 19.14 crore rural households across the country, 9.63 crore (50.30%) households are reported to have potable water supply in their homes. Considering the pace of implementation, the Committee are apprehensive about the achievement of the desired target of FHTC in all rural households by 2024. The Committee had noted that the under-utilization of funds clearly indicate lack of financial prudence and fiscal discipline. Further, considering the dismal performance pertaining to the fund utilization, the Committee had urged the Department to initiate suitable corrective measures during the current financial year to achieve a better performance under the scheme and apprise the Committee of the action taken in this regard. The Committee observe that the Department in the Action Taken Reply has merely mentioned about the bottlenecks being faced by the States while no details of corrective measures or outcome of the visits/meetings have been provided. The Committee are of the view that merely enumerating the bottleneck will not go a long way in achieving the set target, rather a comprehensive review of the Scheme needs to be undertaken by the Department, keeping in view the bottlenecks identified by the States/UTs and also by further identifying the practical considerations/difficulties being faced in implementation of the Scheme and modifying the Guidelines accordingly. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken in this regard by the Department within three months of presentation of this Report.

C. Early finalization of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) under JJM

Recommendation No.3 (Para 2.4)

12. The Committee noted that as per the JJM guidelines, the States/UTs have to finalize their Annual Action Plans by April-May every year. Thereafter, funds are released from time to time throughout the year and regular field visits and review meetings are held to ensure implementation of these Annual Action Plans to achieve the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee noted that the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has entered third year of its implementation of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by 2024 across the country in entirety. The Committee were of the considered view that since Annual Action Plan are an yearly exercise they should be completed well in time without any delay for enabling better utilization of funds and implementation of works/ programmes as per the timelines fixed. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to ensure early finalization of Annual Action Plans by all States preferably by March end of every year, so as to ensure completion of works within the timelines fixed.

13. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Discussion with States/ UTs for finalization of Annual Action Plan (AAP) (2022-23) for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission was started in March itself from 23rd March 2022 to 27th April 2022.”

14. **The Committee note that discussion with States /UTs for finalisation of Annual Action Plan (AAP) (2022-23) was initiated from 23rd March to 27th April, 2022. The Committee, however, are of the considered view that in the annual exercise of preparation of Annual Action Plan, the process of finalization of AAPs should be completed by March every year so that the funds are allocated and sanctioned before the commencement of the new Financial year. Further, the Committee recommend that the funds are released at the earliest in the new financial year (FY) so that the process of implementation /execution of projects under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) can continue/start in the new financial year and not halt/wait for the want of funds.**

D. Village Action Plan (VAPs) and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)

Recommendation No.4 (Para No. 2.5)

15. The Committee observed that under JJM Village Panchayat or the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSCs) is an integral partner in the planning process. The plan prepared by the Village, which is generally known as Village Action Plan (VAP), is

based on the participatory approach. The aggregation of VAPs is done at the district level, and a District Action Plan is prepared and these in turn are again aggregated at the State level. The multi-villages schemes are being designed and planned at the State level in consultation with the villages. Similarly, Gram Panchayat or its sub-committee/user group i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/Pani Samiti, has been empowered to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain village water supply system. As reported by the Department, the Committee noted that there are 6,04,631 lakh rural villages in the country, out of which 4,68,366 lakh (77%) of rural villages have constituted VWSC and 3,79,280 lakh (62%) rural villages have prepared Village Action Plans as on 09.02.2022. The Committee expressed their concern that very poor progress has been made by some States like Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Odissa, Telangana & West Bengal in preparing/setting up VAPs/ VWSCs. The Committee were of considered view that the preparation/ constitution of VAPs and VWSCs is very important and, until and unless, these are completed/set up and made functional across the country, the target may not be achieved within the deadline. Further, VAPs and VWSCs play very important role in monitoring and implementation of the scheme and are crucial link in the success of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to take up the matter seriously and chalk out a time bound plan in consultation with States/Union Territories for constitution/preparation of VWSCs and VAPs at the earliest and also apprise the Committee of the steps taken in this regard.

16. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“The States/ UTs have been requested to expedite constitution of VWSC and preparation of VAPs during Annual Action Plan discussion and in regional conference. As on 06.06.2022, VWSCs have be constituted in 4.96 lakh villages (82%) and VAPs prepared in 4.06 lakh villages (67%). The lagging States have been requested to take requisite action for constitution of VWSCs and preparation of VAPs”.

17. The Committee take note of the efforts being made by the Department for expediting the constitution of Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) and preparation of Village Action Plans (VAPs). Yet, as on 6.06.2022, VWSCs have been constituted in 82% of the villages and VAPs prepared by 67% villages only. The Committee therefore, reiterate that VWSCs and VAPs are crucial link to achieve success in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and that a time bound plan in consultation with States /UTs be chalked out for constitution /preparation of VWSCs and VAPs. Further, the Committee are of the considered view that in consultation with concerned States/UTs and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, platforms

like Panchayat Sammelans and Panchayat Awards may be utilised to effectively convey the importance of VWSCs and VAPs among the rural local bodies.

E. Waiving off of user charges from the local communities

Recommendation No.5 (Para No. 2.6)

18. The Committee noted that under extant guidelines of the JJM, 5 % contribution has to be made by local communities towards the capital cost in cash and or in kind or labour in hilly/forested areas, NE/Himalayan States & villages having more than 50% SCs or STs population and 10 % of the capital cost in case of other villages, for in-village piped water supply infrastructure and related resources development to be implemented by Gram Panchayat and or VWSCs/Paani Samiti/User Group etc. Further willingness of the community contribution from at least 80 % of the household is pre-requisite for taking up water supply scheme. However, the GPs and/ or its sub committees may consider exempting individual contribution from poor, infirm, divyangjan or widow with no source of steady income. In this regard, the Committee observed that in the erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water programme there was no such stipulation of mandatory community contributions towards the capital cost. The Committee are of the considered view that since providing water to rural population is not only a basic necessity but also an integral function of a Welfare State, like India, any mandatory contribution by community would perhaps undermine the efforts for realization of the goal of providing water connection to every household. Further, considering the poor economic conditions of the rural masses, the Committee recommended that the Department should seriously consider waiving off the community contribution towards the capital cost of water supply infrastructure and related source development. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps/initiative taken by the Department in this regard.

19. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“To instill the ‘sense of ownership’ among rural masses, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), there is a provision of community contribution to the extent of 5% of the cost of in-village infrastructure in case of North Eastern & Himalayan States, forested/ hilly areas, SC/ ST dominated villages and 10% in rest of the areas.

Under JJM, willingness of the community and contribution from at least 80% households of the village is a pre-requisite for taking up water supply scheme. The community contribution can be in the form of cash and/ or kind and/ or labour. Further, Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee, i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee/ Pani Samiti/ User Group, etc. may exempt individual contribution from poor, infirm, divyangjan or widow with no source of steady income.

Further, provisions have also been made for rewarding the community with 10% of the cost of in-village infrastructure, after successful commissioning of the scheme, which would serve as revolving fund to meet any unforeseen expenditure due to major break down, etc., thereby assuring continuous water supply.”

20. The Committee take note that there is a provision for community contribution to instill the ‘sense of ownership’ among rural masses and provision for rewarding the community with 10% of cost of in-village infrastructure, which will serve as revolving fund to meet unforeseen expenditure. The Committee, however, are of the considered view that since providing water to rural population is not only a basic necessity but also an integral function of a Welfare State, like India, any mandatory contribution by community would perhaps undermine the efforts for realization of the goal of providing water connection to every household. Further, considering the poor economic conditions of the rural masses, particularly in view of the recent COVID pandemic, the Committee recommend that the Department should seriously consider waiving off the community contribution towards the capital cost of water supply infrastructure and related source development. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps/initiative taken by the Department within three months from the date of presentation of the Report.

F. Coverage of Aspirational/JE/AES affected District

Recommendation No.6 (Para 2.7)

21. The Committee noted that 117 districts with low Human Development Indices (HDIs) have been identified as Aspirational Districts by the NITI Aayog. As per the data furnished by the Department, only 39.78 % of the households in 117 Aspirational Districts have tap water connections. While States like Haryana, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar and Sikkim have covered more than 85 % of their household in the Aspirational districts with the tap connections, States like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Utrkhand, Kerala and Assam have less than 30 % household coverage. The Committee also observed that 61 districts of the 5 States namely, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are affected with Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES), which is a serious health hazard which mostly affects children and young adults which can lead to severe morbidity and mortality. So far, only 40.43 %

households are provided with tap water connections in these JE/AES districts. Thus, there is undoubtedly urgent requirement of covering more households in the Aspirational/JE-AES districts under the ambit of clean water supply. The Committee observed that the 'need of the hour' is to bridge the gap in supply of safe drinking water in the lagging Aspirational/JE-AES districts, and bring them at par with the other districts of the Country in terms of availability of safe drinking water. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to chalk out a time bound action plan in cooperation with respective State Governments for coverage of all targeted Aspirational districts and JE/AES districts with tap water connections.

22. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Providing tap water connection in Aspirational districts is priority area in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. States have been urged to expedite 100% tap water connection in Aspirational district, water quality-affected and JE-AES affected districts by December, 2022.

Under the mission, 10% weightage is assigned for population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including heavy metals, while allocating the fund, to prioritize the coverage in these areas. Further, 0.5% of annual allocation has been earmarked for 5 States namely Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal having 61 JE/ AES affected priority districts over and above JJM fund under coverage component.

As reported by States, as on 06.06.2022, safe drinking water through tap water connection have been provided in 45.83% and 45.26% households in Aspirational and JE-AES affected priority districts, respectively.

This Department vide letter dated 13.04.2022 has requested Central Prabhari Officers for Aspirational districts to review implementation of JJM in aspirational districts during district visits and review meetings and also shared an indicative list of key aspects to be reviewed for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

This department vide letter dated 29.04.2022 has requested States/ UTs for coverage of water quality-affected areas, Aspirational and JE-AES affected districts to be given top-most priority to be completed by 31st December 2022.

Department has been reviewing the status of tap water connections provided in JE–AES affected priority districts with States from time to time through several meetings including conference, review meetings through video conference, field visits etc. States have been advised to expedite the implementation of schemes

to ensure provision of safe drinking water through tap connections in remaining households in JE-AES affected priority districts by December, 2022.”

23. The Committee take note of the efforts being made by the Department for providing tap water connection in Aspirational district, water quality-affected and JE-AES affected districts by December, 2022. The Committee note that as on 06.06.2022, safe drinking water through tap water connection have been provided in 45.83% and 45.26% households in Aspirational and JE-AES affected priority districts, respectively. The Committee are apprehensive whether the Department will be able to achieve the desired target by December, 2022. The Committee would like to reiterate that Department in consultation with State Governments chalk out realistic time bound actionable plan to make available safe drinking water round the year through tap water connections in all targeted Aspirational districts and JE/AES districts.

G. Non-completion of road repair works after laying of pipelines under JJM

Recommendation No.7 (Para No. 2.8)

24. The Committee were happy to note that the laying of pipelines under Jal Jeevan Mission (Gramin) is undertaken at a massive scale throughout the country for providing safe and clean drinking water to the rural masses. However, the Committee noted with concern that in several States after laying water pipelines, the damaged roads are not rehabilitated or repaired due to the negligence and callousness on the part of the concerned authorities. The Committee noted that the damaged roads are often filled with soil or kept open instead of bringing them back to their original form. This not only gives shabby look but also lead to obstacles/hassles to the commuters. The villagers face a number of hardships ranging from day to day commutation to potential danger of accidents, particularly at night. The Committee, therefore, urged upon the Department to look into the matter seriously and issue advisories to the States / authorities concerned to ensure that the damaged roads get repaired promptly soon after laying of the pipelines by the contractor/implementing agencies.

25. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“To avoid any hardships to the villagers, the Department has been taking this issue with States at all levels. Further, the States vide letter dated 22.11.2021 and reminders dated 17.03.2022 and 27.05.2022 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.”

26. The Committee take note of the communication issued to States advising to take up rural water schemes in a way with minimum damages to infrastructure and to restore the roads/ highways immediately in case of damages done while laying of pipelines for water supply systems. However, the Committee would like to again bring it to the notice of the Department that often in several States after laying water pipelines, the damaged roads are not rehabilitated or repaired and are filled with soil or kept open. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that Department look into the matter seriously and issue advisories to the States / authorities concerned to ensure that the damaged roads including the village roads that are used by the villagers on daily basis are repaired promptly soon after laying of the pipelines by the contractor/implementing agencies so as to avoid everyday hardship to the villagers.

H. Rural areas with contaminated water supply

Recommendation No.8 (Para No. 2.9)

27. The Committee noted that there were 35370 rural habitations in the country which are affected with water contamination. Out of these, 1792 habitations are affected with arsenic, 2064 with Fluoride, 20185 with Iron, 10356 with Salinity, 765 with Nitrate and 208 with Heavy Metals. The data provided by the Department reveal that out of 35,370 quality affected habitations, only 2017 habitations have been covered with Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs), which is less than 6 % of the total quality affected habitations. The Committee noted that this reflected a very sorry state of affairs and people of these areas are constrained to drink contaminated water which are harmful to their mental and physical health. The Committee were also not satisfied with the progress of setting up of CWPPs as it is moving at a snail's pace in all quality affected habitations, though there is sizeable reduction in CWPPs from 32,271 (as on 24.02.21) to 26,198 (as on 21.02.22). Thus, the Committee noted that there was an urgent need to speed up the implementation of the scheme and ensure timely setting up of CWPPs in all the contamination affected areas till piped water supply reaches every rural household/habitations. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommended that the Department should prepare an emergent plan in consultation with the State Governments to set up CWPPs in all the areas within the stipulated time frame. Till such time, all such habitants are brought under CWPPs coverage, potable water may be provided through mobile water vans/tankers carrying safe and clean drinking water or small water purification dispensers be installed at designated places.

28. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Water being a State subject, Government of India is regularly requesting the States to prioritize the coverage of water quality affected habitations. States have once again been advised to expedite the implementation of schemes to ensure provision of safe drinking water through tap connections to all households in quality-affected habitations by December, 2022. Further, the progress reported by State is also monitored on daily basis through the online monitoring system JJM –IMIS.

Under JJM, provisions have also been made for the States/ UTs to take up Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) to provide 8-10 lpcd potable water to meet drinking and cooking need of every household residing in such villages/ habitations, purely as an interim measure, till the commissioning of regular water supply scheme for providing potable water through tap connection to every rural household.

As reported by States, the number of habitations having water quality issues in drinking water sources during last four years and current year is as under:

Year	Number of affected habitations
As on 01.04.2019	57,539
As on 01.04.2020	54,166
As on 01.04.2021	36,054
As on 01.04.2022	27,160
As on 06.06.2022	26,930

29. The Committee note that in Action Taken Replies, the Department has informed that States have been advised to expedite the implementation of schemes to ensure provision of safe drinking water through tap connections to all the households in quality affected habitations by December, 2022. The Committee hope that the desired goal is achieved as per target date. The Committee, however, would like to bring it to notice of the Department that the reply is silent on Committee’s recommendation that till the Community Water Purification Plants (CWPP) are established in habitats affected with contaminated water, potable water may be provided through mobile vans/tankers carrying safe and clean drinking water or small water purification dispenses be installed at designated places.

The Committee urge the Department to engage with States to ensure that Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) with assured and regular supply of water are provided to the water quality affected habitations as per the target date. The Committee further reiterate the Department to continue efforts to bring such habitations under the ambit of CWPP coverage for assured availability of safe and clean drinking water to the community in these habitations so that the adverse impact of contaminated water on the human capital and their quality of life is obliterated. The Committee desire that the status of action taken by the Department may be furnished to the Committee in three months from the date of presentation of the Report.

I. **Social Audit System**

Recommendation No.11 (Para 2.12)

30. The Committee felt that any mechanism which ensures proper monitoring and increasing the transparency at the ground level regarding the functioning of the SBM (G) need to be encouraged and implemented earnestly. In this regard, the Committee noted that as per guidelines, Social Audit meetings are to be held in each Gram Panchayat, once in six months. The GPs will assist in organizing Social Audits of the programme and the Districts and Blocks shall be responsible to ensure the adherence to this schedule. The Committee were apprised that the Manual on Social Audit, issued from time to time, has to be referred while conducting social audit under SBM (G). Further, the Committee were apprised that few States like Manipur, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have conducted social audit in some villages. However, the Department had not furnished the details as also the reasons for non-conducting the Social Audit in 'letter and spirit' by other States. The Committee were of the considered view that such non compliance with the guidelines for conducting of social audit once every six months is tantamount to a blatant disregard to an important aspect of the Scheme which is meant for bringing transparency and accountability. Hence, the Committee recommended that it is high time that a regular and periodic social audit system should be effectively put in place in all the Gram Panchayat level and its findings be brought regularly in the public domain for better transparency and credibility of the scheme. The Committee strongly urged the Department to issue necessary advisory to all States/UTs to conduct social audit at regular intervals for ensuring that there is effective implementation of the flagship programme in rural areas.

31. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs on 14th July,2022 by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) emphasizing the

importance of organizing social audit of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] for effective implementation of the programme. The States/UTs have been requested to ensure that social audit of SBM(G) is conducted in all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) adhering to the time schedule stipulated in the SBM(G) guidelines and the findings are displayed for the public in GP office for better transparency and credibility of the scheme.”

32. The Committee observe that advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs emphasizing the importance of organizing Social Audit of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) (SBM(G)) for effective implementation of the Programme. The Committee reiterate that advisory should be issued to State/UTs periodically in order to highlight the crucial role of social audit in ensuring the success of SBM(G). The Committee further note that States/UTs have been requested that the findings of Social Audit are displayed for the public in Gram Panchayat (GP) Office for better transparency and credibility of the scheme. The Committee are of the considered view that in order to enhance the transparency and create an environment and acceptability of Social Audit as a tool to accomplish the goal of SBM(G) by the targeted date, the findings of Social Audit Reports may be made available on Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) platform.

J. Third Party Inspection

Recommendation No.12 (Para No. 2.13)

33. The Committee noted that under the JJM, the State Water & Sanitation Missions (SWSMs) have empanelled third party verification agencies to check the quality of work executed by the Implementing Agencies. From the data furnished by the Department, the Committee were surprised to note that 14 States/Union Territories have not reported the details of the empanelment of the third party inspection agencies. Moreover, the Committee noted that the numbers of Inspecting Agencies engaged by the States were abysmally very low in comparison to the size of the States. The Committee, therefore, urged the Department to direct the States/UTs to empanel more and more third party inspecting agencies, so as to ascertain the veracity of works executed by the agencies. The Committee also stated that they would like to be apprised of the reasons for non-reporting of data by States/UTs in this regard.

34. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Provisions have been made for carrying out third party inspection of the assets created under JJM. State Water & Sanitation Missions have been empowered for

empanelment of third-party inspection agencies. So far, as reported, 147 third party inspection agencies have been engaged in 28 States/ UTs.”

35. **The Committee note that in Action Taken Replies, the Department is silent on apprising the Committee on the reasons for non-reporting of data by States/UTs in regard to the empanelment of third-party inspection agencies. The Committee are of the view that third party inspection has a pivotal role in ascertaining the veracity of the works executed by various agencies and ensuring the quality and sustainability of the infrastructure created under SBM(G). The Committee further note that 147 third party inspection agencies have been engaged in 28 States/UTs. The Committee, however, reiterate the earlier view that the number of third party inspection agencies is abysmally low considering the size of the country and the scale of the programme. The Committee, therefore, urge that the States/UTs be directed to empanel additional third party inspection agencies with past experience in the field of expertise and credible credentials.**

K. Issue of contamination of water in Ganganagar district, Rajasthan

Recommendation No.13 (Para No. 2.14)

36. That Committee noted that contamination of water is a serious issue as it is directly related to the health of the people. The problem is extremely alarming as the number of cases of cancer in certain areas is rising alarmingly. The Committee in their earlier Reports also underlined the issue of water contamination especially in Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and its adjoining areas and urged upon the Department to take up the matter with the State Government of Rajasthan to prepare a time bound action plan for installing water purification plants on priority basis to ensure supply of clean and potable drinking water in the rural habitations. However, the Committee were concerned to note that no tangible progress has been made in this direction to mitigate the suffering of the affected people in the Ganganagar district. The Committee, therefore, reiterated that the Department should take up the matter at the highest level with the Government of Rajasthan, so that inhabitants of Ganganagar district are provided with clean drinking water at the earliest.

37. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“As informed by the State of Rajasthan, canal based water sources are used for water supply schemes for 2,834 villages in the Ganga Nagar district and 1,076 villages are covered through water supply schemes with water sources from Ganga Canal system. Raw water from the canal-based system is purified and

chlorinated before supplying to villages. Further, chemical testing of the raw water samples is done from time to time and results of latest chemical testing done in November, 2021 has revealed that chemical contaminants are under the permissible limits.

Further, this Department has requested the State of Punjab, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Dept. of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to take corrective action required to avoid discharge of industrial waste in Ganga Canal.”

38. The Committee noted the Department’s effort in addressing the issue of contamination of water in Ganganagar district and request made to State of Punjab, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Dept. of WR,RD&GR) to take corrective action required to avoid discharge of industrial waste in Ganga Canal. The Committee, however, are concerned that despite the best efforts of the Department no concrete impact has been observed on the ground level. The Committee would like to state that considering the gravity of the problems faced by the people, merely requesting the concerned stakeholders would not be sufficient to address the issue of contamination of water in the Ganganagar district. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Department should take up the matter of industrial pollution and functioning of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) along the bank of Indira Gandhi Canal in Punjab at the highest level with the State Government Punjab, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Dept of WR,RD&GR including Central Ground Water Board. The Committee would like to be apprised of the details viz. number of ETPs, total capacity, total amount of polluted water generated vis-à-vis treated.

Further, the Committee note that the Department has mentioned that chemical testing of the raw water samples is done from time to time and results of latest chemical testing done in November, 2021 has revealed that chemical contaminants are under the permissible limits. The Committee would like to know whether the samples have been tested for Heavy metals and presence of pathogen/bacteria etc. and the details of the latest testing may be shared with the

Committee. The Committee would like to be apprised of the action taken by the Department within three months of presentation of this Report.

L. Increase in unit assistance under SBM (G)

Recommendation No.15 (Para No. 2.16)

39. The Committee noted that at present financial incentive of Rs. 12,000/- to BPL and identified Above Poverty Line households, under SBM (G), are being provided for construction of toilets. The Committee were of the considered opinion that the existing per unit assistance is grossly insufficient and nowhere near to the actual cost of construction of toilets even if a beneficiary puts his own labour. The Committee were of the opinion that the incentive be enhanced commensurately keeping in view the rising cost of the construction material of the toilets. They, therefore, strongly recommended the Department to consider the feasibility of enhancing the per unit assistance for toilets, from the existing rate of Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- for BPL and identified APL households in rural areas.

40. The Department in their action taken reply have stated as under :-

“Out of the incentive amount of Rs.12000/- for construction Individual Household Latrine (IHHL), the Central share amount provided in the North Eastern (NE) States and the Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and UT of Jammu & Kashmir is Rs.10,800, and in the remaining States it is Rs.7,200. NE States and Himalayan States as mentioned have to provide minimum share Rs.1,200 and remaining States have to provide minimum share Rs.4,800. The States can provide higher State share funds by providing additional funds. The beneficiaries should also be encouraged to add their own share in order to promote ownership and usage of the toilets.”

41. The Committee had strongly recommended the Department to consider the feasibility of enhancing the per unit financial assistance for construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) [SBM(G)]. The Committee take note of the casual nature of Department's approach reflected in the Action Taken Replies that the States can provide higher State share funds by providing additional funds and that the beneficiaries should be encouraged to add their own share. The Committee would like to highlight the fact that Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)] is the flagship programme of the Government and Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) is the first step towards attaining the lofty goals of ODF2.0 (Open Defecation Free 2.0) under SBM(G)-II.

In view of the critical importance of IHHL under SBM(G), the Committee strongly recommend that Department should re-examine the issue and consider enhancing central share amount in the total incentive amount for construction of IHHL across the States/UTs so that it acts as a model for the States/UTs to follow. The Committee, therefore, reiterate the Department to consider the feasibility of enhancing the per unit assistance for toilets from the existing rates of Rs 12,000 to Rs 20,000 for Below Poverty Line and identified Above Poverty Line households in rural area

CHAPTER – II

OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No. 2 (Para No. 2.3)

Under-utilization of funds under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Committee note that during the fiscal year 2021-22, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Rs. 50,011/- crore was allocated at BE stage which was reduced to Rs. 45,011/- crore at RE stage, while the actual expenditure incurred was only Rs.28,238/- crore. While analyzing State wise financial performance, the Committee find that only three States namely Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Meghalaya have utilized cent per cent of Central allocation of funds, while 11 States namely Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Sikkim, Nagaland, Assam, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram have utilized only 50% to 75%. Further, the Committee are surprised to note that bigger States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have utilized below 25 % of Central allocation. The Committee are dismayed to note the under-utilization of funds which clearly indicate lack of financial prudence and fiscal discipline, thus, adversely affecting the implementation and monitoring of the programme as a whole. This undoubtedly deprive the targeted beneficiaries' access to safe and clean potable water at their homes. The Committee, therefore, taking into consideration such dismal performance pertaining to the fund utilization, urge the Department to initiate suitable corrective measures during the current financial year to achieve a better performance under the scheme and apprise the Committee of the action taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Since the announcement of the mission, 6.40 (33.40%) Crore rural households have been provided with tap water connections. Thus, as of date, out of 19.14 Crore rural households across the country, 9.63 Crore (50.30%) households are reported to have potable tap water supply in their homes. States of Goa, Haryana and Telangana and UTs of A & N Islands, DNH & DD and Puducherry have provided tap water supply to all rural homes. As on date, every rural household in 108 districts and 1.53 lakh villages across the country have started getting tap water supply in their homes. The year-wise details of tap water connection provided so far, is as under:

(No. in lakh)

Time/ Year	Tap Water Connections	Cumulative Tap Water Connections
15.08.2019	3,23.63	3,23.63
2019-20	82.62	4,06.25
2020-21	3,22.62	7,28.87
2021-22	2,08.36	9,37.23
2022-23*	26.91	9,63.52

* as on 06.06.2022

However, State governments, during implementation of the programme, have *inter alia* indicated bottlenecks like uneven geographical terrain, scattered rural habitations, depletion of groundwater, adverse climatic conditions, delay in obtaining statutory/ other clearances, and extended periods of lockdowns in CoVID pandemic, price rise/ inflation etc. thereby delaying the implementation and fund utilization under the programme.

Further, delay in release and non-availability of matching State share also delayed utilization of fund. To address the issue, several meetings including conferences, workshops, review meetings through video conferences, field visits, etc. at highest levels are being held from time to time with States/ UTs, wherein they are advised to plan and expedite the implementation of the programme to achieve the goal in a time-bound manner.

In 2019-20, a sum of Rs. 10,000.66 Crore was allocated for the mission and the entire amount was utilized. Similarly, in 2020-21, Rs. 11,000 Crore was allocated and utilized. In 2021-22, for Jal Jeevan Mission, Rs. 45,011 Crore has been allocated in the Union budget and an amount of Rs. 40,125.64 Crore was utilized. In 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 60,000 Crore has been allocated for the implementation of the Mission.

Details of major review meetings held in 2022-23 are as under:

- v. Post budget discussions and webinar on Jal Jeevan Mission in February, 2022;
- vi. Joint review meetings with the Chief Ministers of States and Lt. Governors of UTs. Recently held with J&K and Uttar Pradesh in April, 2022;
- vii. Conference of Ministers in-charge of rural water supply of States at Guwahati, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Jaipur during February to April, 2022;
- viii. More than 110 State/ UT visits have been undertaken for understanding the JJM planning and implementation on the ground, key issues, challenges, suggesting

measures to speed up the implementation as well as documenting good practices;

- vi. Review meetings at Odisha in June, 2022.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation No.3 (Para No. 2.4)

Early finalization of Annual Action Plans (AAPs) under JJM

2.4 The Committee note that as per the JJM guidelines, the States/UTs have to finalize their Annual Action Plans by April-May every year. Thereafter, funds are released from time to time throughout the year and regular field visits and review meetings are held to ensure implementation of these Annual Action Plans to achieve the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee note that the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has entered third year of its implementation of providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by 2024 across the country in entirety. The Committee are of the considered view that since Annual Action Plan are an yearly exercise they should be completed well in time without any delay for enabling better utilization of funds and implementation of works/ programmes as per the timelines fixed. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to ensure early finalization of Annual Action Plans by all States preferably by March end of every year, so as to ensure completion of works within the timelines fixed.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Discussion with States/ UTs for finalization of Annual Action Plan (AAP) (2022-23) for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission was started in March itself from 23rd March 2022 to 27th April 2022.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation No.4 (Para No. 2.5)

Village Action Plan (VAPs) and Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs)

The Committee observe that under JJM Village Panchayat or the Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSCs) is an integral partner in the planning process. The plan prepared by the Village, which is generally known as Village Action Plan (VAP), is based on the participatory approach. The aggregation of VAPs is done at the district level, and a District Action Plan is prepared and these in turn are again aggregated at the State level. The multi-villages schemes are being designed and planned at the State level in consultation with the villages. Similarly, Gram Panchayat or its sub-committee/user group i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/Pani Samiti, has been empowered to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain village water supply system. As reported by the Department, the Committee note that there are 6,04,631 lakh rural villages in the country, out of which 4,68,366 lakh (77%) of rural villages have constituted VWSC and 3,79,280 lakh (62%) rural villages have prepared Village Action Plans as on 09.02.2022. The Committee express their concern that very poor progress has been made by some States like Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Odissa, Telangana & West Bengal in preparing/setting up VAPs/ VWSCs. The Committee are of considered view that the preparation/ constitution of VAPs and VWSCs is very important and, untill and unless, these are completed/set up and made functional across the country, the target may not be achieved within the deadline. Further, VAPs and VWSCs play very important role in monitoring and implementation of the scheme and are crucial link in the success of Jal Jeevan Mission. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to take up the matter seriously and chalk out a time bound plan in consultation with States/Union Territories for constitution/preparation of VWSCs and VAPs at the earliest and also apprise the Committee of the steps taken in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

The States/ UTs have been requested to expedite constitution of VWSC and preparation of VAPs during Annual Action Plan discussion and in regional conference. As on 06.06.2022, VWSCs have be constituted in 4.96 lakh villages (82%) and VAPs prepared in 4.06 lakh villages (67%). The lagging States have been requested to take requisite action for constitution of VWSCs and preparation of VAPs.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 17 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No.6 (Para No. 2.7)

Coverage of Aspirational/JE/AES affected District

The Committee note that 117 districts with low Human Development Indices (HDIs) have been identified as Aspirational Districts by the NITI Aayog. As per the data furnished by the Department, only 39.78 % of the households in 117 Aspirational Districts have tap water connections. While States like Haryana, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar and Sikkim have covered more than 85 % of their household in the Aspirational districts with the tap connections, States like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Kerala and Assam have less than 30 % household coverage. The Committee also observe that 61 districts of the 5 States namely, Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are affected with Japanese Encephalitis/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (JE/AES), which is a serious health hazard which mostly affects children and young adults which can lead to severe morbidity and mortality. So far, only 40.43 % households are provided with tap water connections in these JE/AES districts. Thus, there is undoubtedly urgent requirement of covering more households in the Aspirational/JE-AES districts under the ambit of clean water supply. The 'need of the hour' is to bridge the gap in supply of safe drinking water in the lagging Aspirational/JE-AES districts, and bring them at par with the other districts of the Country in terms of availability of safe drinking water. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to chalk out a time bound action plan in cooperation with respective State Governments for coverage of all targeted Aspirational districts and JE/AES districts with tap water connections.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Providing tap water connection in Aspirational districts is priority area in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. States have been urged to expedite 100% tap water connection in Aspirational district, water quality-affected and JE-AES affected districts by December, 2022.

Under the mission, 10% weightage is assigned for population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including heavy metals, while allocating the fund, to prioritize the coverage in these areas. Further, 0.5% of annual allocation has been earmarked for 5 States namely Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal having 61 JE/ AES affected priority districts over and above JJM fund under coverage component.

As reported by States, as on 06.06.2022, safe drinking water through tap water connection have been provided in 45.83% and 45.26% households in Aspirational and JE-AES affected priority districts, respectively.

This Department vide letter dated 13.04.2022 has requested Central Prabhari Officers for Aspirational districts to review implementation of JJM in aspirational districts during

district visits and review meetings and also shared an indicative list of key aspects to be reviewed for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

This department vide letter dated 29.04.2022 has requested States/ UTs for coverage of water quality-affected areas, Aspirational and JE-AES affected districts to be given top-most priority to be completed by 31st December 2022.

Department has been reviewing the status of tap water connections provided in JE–AES affected priority districts with States from time to time through several meetings including conference, review meetings through video conference, field visits etc. States have been advised to expedite the implementation of schemes to ensure provision of safe drinking water through tap connections in remaining households in JE-AES affected priority districts by December, 2022.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 23 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 8 (Para No. 2.9)

Rural areas with contaminated water supply

The Committee note that there are still 35370 rural habitations in the country which are affected with water contamination. Out of these, 1792 habitations are affected with arsenic, 2064 with Fluoride, 20185 with Iron, 10356 with Salinity, 765 with Nitrate and 208 with Heavy Metals. The data provided by the Department reveal that out of 35,370 quality affected habitations, only 2017 habitations have been covered with Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs), which is less than 6 % of the total quality affected habitations. This reflects a very sorry state of affairs and people of these areas are constrained to drink contaminated water which are harmful to their mental and physical health. The Committee are also not satisfied with the progress of setting up of CWPPs as it is moving at a snail's pace in all quality affected habitations, though there is sizeable reduction in CWPPs from 32,271 (as on 24.02.21) to 26,198 (as on 21.02.22). Thus, there is an urgent need to speed up the implementation of the scheme and ensure timely setting up of CWPPs in all the contamination affected areas till piped water supply reaches every rural household/habitations. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that the Department should prepare an emergent plan in consultation with the State Governments to set up CWPPs in all the areas within the stipulated time frame. Till such time, all such habitants are brought under CWPPs coverage, potable water may be provided through mobile water vans/tankers carrying

safe and clean drinking water or small water purification dispensers be installed at designated places.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Water being a State subject, Government of India is regularly requesting the States to prioritize the coverage of water quality affected habitations. States have once again been advised to expedite the implementation of schemes to ensure provision of safe drinking water through tap connections to all households in quality-affected habitations by December, 2022. Further, the progress reported by State is also monitored on daily basis through the online monitoring system JJM –IMIS.

Under JJM, provisions have also been made for the States/ UTs to take up Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs) to provide 8-10 lpcd potable water to meet drinking and cooking need of every household residing in such villages/ habitations, purely as an interim measure, till the commissioning of regular water supply scheme for providing potable water through tap connection to every rural household.

As reported by States, the number of habitations having water quality issues in drinking water sources during last four years and current year is as under:

Year	Number of affected habitations
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(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 29 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No.9 (Para No. 2.10)

Water Quality Testing Laboratories

The Committee note that the water testing laboratories play pivotal role in assisting and facilitating States/UTs in proper monitoring of supply of quality drinking water to the households besides enabling upgrading & improving the functioning and strengthening of the drinking water supply plants. As reported by the Department, as of now, there are 2021 drinking water quality testing laboratories at different levels i.e. 28 at State Level, 659 at District Level, 89 at Block level, 1181 at Sub-Divisional Level and

64 Mobile Laboratories. However, while scrutinizing the data, the Committee noticed that the number of water testing laboratories have got reduced by more than 10 % during the last two years. The Committee are perturbed to note that in only six States in the entire country namely Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Tripura water quality testing laboratories have been set up at Block Level. The Committee, in their successive Reports have stressed the need for having more and more water testing laboratories to provide quality potable water to the rural populace. However, the Committee are aghast to note that instead of increasing, the number of water testing laboratories being set up are decreasing over the last two years. The Committee are unable to comprehend the reason behind the reduction in testing laboratories, when the issue of contamination of water is rising as it indirectly affects the rural economic growth of the country. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend for increasing the water quality testing laboratories across the country on war footing by addressing the issue with utmost alacrity.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Drinking Water being a State subject, it is the States who set up/ upgrade drinking water quality testing laboratories. Further, States/ UTs review the functioning of these laboratories and based on updated data latest numbers are being reported. As reported, as on date, there are 2,043 laboratories at different levels viz. State, District, sub-division and/ or block level in the country.

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 and ensure that all drinking water sources are tested once for chemical contamination and twice for bacteriological contamination.

Also, 'Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Framework' has been firmed up in consultation with various stakeholders and has been released as a guiding tool for setting up/ strengthening the drinking water quality testing laboratories and providing technical support to implementing agencies for labs institutional framework; required infrastructure, manpower/ experts, equipment, staff qualification & experience; roles & responsibilities of laboratory personnel; laboratory gap assessment & improvement plan; NABL accreditation/ recognition process etc.

Further, 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) has been developed at

national level in partnerships with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and is in public domain at:

<https://neer.icmr.org.in/website/main.php>

This portal also provides automated alerts to concerned authorities in States/ UTs, if the water sample tested is contaminated, to initiate remedial actions.

All the laboratories have been opened to public. On this portal an individual can register his sample and choose nearby water quality testing laboratory to get the water sample tested at nominal cost and receive digital report. Thus, testing of water samples and reporting in rural areas, has been made accessible and easy for making consumers aware about the quality of water being supplied in their homes.

Under JJM, provisions have been for States/ UTs to utilize upto 2% of their annual allocation for 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, accreditation/ recognition of laboratories, etc. This fund can now also be used by States towards building cost for setting up a new laboratory at regional, district, sub-divisional/ block levels, NABL accreditation of laboratories engaged under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) or public-public partnership.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Recommendation No.10 (Para No. 2.11)

NABL Accredited Laboratories

The Committee also note that there is considerable increase in the number of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited water quality laboratories in the country. There are at present 444 NABL accredited water quality labs in the country in comparison to 70 in the last year. Data furnished by the Department reveals that the States like Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan have more than 50 % of their laboratories, NABL accredited. However, a few big States like Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Utrakhand and Tamil Nadu are still having less than 10 % of their total laboratories accredited under NABL. While appreciating the efforts made by the Department for NABL accreditation, the Committee feel that there is still lot more to be done in this direction. The Committee, therefore strongly feel the necessity of getting all the water quality testing labs in the country accredited from NABL. They urge upon the Department to expedite the accreditation process of all the labs on priority basis, within a definite time period.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

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 ISO/IEC 17025 at least for parameters of basic water quality importance and gradually upgrading to other parameters as per local conditions.

648 laboratories (59 in year 2022-23) have been NABL accredited with joint efforts with States/ UTs from only 30 NABL accredited laboratories at the time of inception of Jal Jeevan Mission in Aug. 2019. Department has been reviewing the lab accreditation/ recognition status with States/ UTs from time to time and requesting States/ UTs to expedite the process of upgradation, accreditation/ recognition of laboratories.

For effective monitoring, while preparing for Annual Action Plan, concerned State has to mandatorily formulate plan for NABL accreditation/ recognition of labs. The State have planned to accreditation/ recognition of 1,429 labs during the year 2022-23.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Recommendation No. 11 (Para No. 2.12)

Social Audit System

The Committee feel that any mechanism which ensures proper monitoring and increasing the transparency at the ground level regarding the functioning of the SBM (G) need to be encouraged and implemented earnestly. In this regard, the Committee note that as per guidelines, Social Audit meetings are to be held in each Gram Panchayat, once in six months. The GPs will assist in organizing Social Audits of the programme and the Districts and Blocks shall be responsible to ensure the adherence to this schedule. The Committee are apprised that the Manual on Social Audit, issued from time to time, has to be referred while conducting social audit under SBM (G). Further, the Committee have also been apprised that few States like Manipur, Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh have conducted social audit in some villages. However, the Department have not furnished the details as also the reasons for non-conducting the Social Audit in 'letter and spirit' by other States. The Committee are of the considered view that such non compliance with the guidelines for conducting of social audit once every six months is tantamount to a blatant disregard to an important aspect of the Scheme which is meant for bringing transparency and accountability. Hence, the Committee recommend that it is high time that a regular and periodic social audit system should be effectively put in place in all the Gram Panchayat level and its findings be brought regularly in the public domain for better transparency and credibility of the scheme. The Committee strongly urge the Department to issue necessary advisory to all States/UTs to conduct social audit at regular intervals for ensuring that there is effective implementation of the flagship programme in rural areas.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs on 14th July,2022 by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) emphasizing the importance of organizing social audit of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) [SBM(G)]for effective implementation of the programme. The States/UTs have been requested to ensure that social audit of SBM(G) is conducted in all the Gram Panchayats (GPs) adhering to the time schedule stipulated in the SBM(G) guidelines and the findings are displayed for the public in GP office for better transparency and credibility of the scheme.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

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

Recommendation No. 14 (Para No. 2.15)

Under-utilization of funds under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G)

The Committee are concerned to note that there is continuous decline in the trend of allocation of funds for Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) at RE stage during the last three years. For the fiscal year 2021-22, Rs. 9994.10 crore was allocated at BE stage which was reduced to Rs. 6000/- crore at RE stage, while the Department has been able to release a sum of Rs. 2100/- crore only to States/UTs. The Department has stated that funds are released to the States based on their demands, availability of funds and performance of States, however, due to Covid-19, the States have not been able to utilize the funds as per the estimated targets during the current financial year. The Committee are of the view that consistent reduction of allocations at RE stage and under-utilization of funds reflects lack of financial prudence and planning, besides slacking in expenditure management on the part of Department. Taking a serious view on recurrent reduction / under-utilization of funds, the Committee desire that the Department should make concerted efforts in close coordination and cooperation with States and implementing agencies to fully utilize the allocated funds so as to minimize the scope of reduction of allocation at RE stage, so that the targets under the mission are fully achieved.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

In order to ensure that funds allocated under the programme are utilized by the States/UTs efficiently and effectively, detailed discussions were held in March-April, 2022 with all the States/UTs individually on their Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) for the year 2022-23. States were advised to ensure that the targets set by them are in line with achieving the goal of the programme by the set timelines. Suggestions were also given to the States/UTs for expeditious implementation of the AIP.

Regional Conferences covering all the States/UTs were held under the chairmanship of Union Minister of Jal Shakti during March-April 2022, to review the progress made and

to emphasize the States/UTs to speed up the programme implementation on ground and effective and expeditious utilization of funds during 2022-23.

Regular review meetings are also being held regularly with Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of the nodal departments in the States/UTs to pursue them for expeditious implementation of the programme and effective utilization of funds

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Recommendation No. 16 (Para No. 2.17& 2.18)

Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)

The Committee note that Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) is one of the key components of the SBM(G) Phase-II in creating clean villages. Under the scheme, it is incumbent on the States to promote Information, Education and Communication (IEC) interventions for SLWM so as to motivate Community/Gram Panchayats demand such a system. States must also provide capacity building to equip Panchayats to operate and maintain the system. The Committee note that as per Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), during the year 2021-22, against the target of covering 2,07,945 villages with infrastructure for Solid Waste Management (SWM), only 46,347 villages could be covered with SWM infrastructure. Similarly, a target of 1,82,517 villages to be covered with Liquid Waste Management was set but only 21,734 villages were covered with LWM infrastructure. The Department informed the Committee that the projected targets could not be accomplished due to complexity involved in taking up SLWM activities. The Committee would like to be informed about the complexities involved in executing the SLWM activities in rural villages and remedial measures taken by the Department to remove the bottlenecks in carrying out the SLWM works so that the target set under the scheme are achieved.

2.18 The Committee also urge upon the Department to launch workshops/ awareness campaigns throughout the year so as to motivate people to demand for creation of SLWM infrastructure in their villages as it is directly related to the hygiene / health of the rural masses besides the potential to create huge job opportunities.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

SBM(G) Phase-II focuses on transforming the villages from ODF to ODF Plus which includes sustainability of ODF status and making solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) arrangements in the villages. In comparison to construction of IHHLs, SLWM activities are technical in nature and involve multiple verticals that require proper planning and effective implementation after considering the nature and volume of the wastes generated in the rural areas. The main complexities involved in the programme are indicated below:-

- Capacity building of the large nos. implementing agencies and functionaries at various levels with respect to planning and implementation of activities of different verticals of SLWM e.g. biodegradable waste management, non-biodegradable waste management, grey water management, faecal sludge management.
- Requirement of different technology options/solutions for managing the various types of solid and liquid wastes considering India's varied geographic and climatic conditions.
- Responsibility and funding for operation and maintenance of SLWM assets
- For some SLWM activities like Plastic Waste Management and Faecal Sludge Management in the rural areas near to cities/towns, convergence with urban facilities is the preferred approach to achieve economy of scale and to avoid duplication. For this regular coordination with urban counterparts at State and district level is required for integrated planning, implementation and operation of services.
- Convergence of funding with 15th Finance Commission tied grants (which goes directly to Rural Local Bodies) for sanitation activities under SBM(G).
- Behaviour change of masses on various aspects of solid and liquid waste management

DDWS has taken various steps to help the States tackle the above complexities for smooth implementation of the programme. The major steps are given below:

- DDWS is focusing on undertaking training programmes for master trainers through partner training agencies for implementation of ODF Plus activities. The master trainers can further impart trainings to block/GP functionaries. Till date 1162 master trainers in 11 States have already been trained.
- For capacity strengthening of field functionaries, an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) based SBM Academy (an online learning course on ODF Plus) launched.
- A number of orientations of State/district officials on ODF Plus and 15th FC tied grants have been organised by DDWS.
- A national workshop on Rapid Action & Learning on Grey Water Management was held on 26-27th May, 2022 in collaboration with UNOPS. More than 120 participants including Mission Directors, State Coordinators, State Consultants, Development Partners participated in the workshop.
- A national workshop on capacity building for ODF Plus was organized on 12th July, 2022 with the support of UNICEF. More than 150 participants including Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries, Mission Directors, State Coordinators, State Consultants, Development Partners, participated in the workshop.

- Knowledge Management portal of SBM(G) facilitates cross sharing of best practices that happen in different States.
- To facilitate knowledge sharing of best practices on all verticals of ODF Plus among districts and States across the country, DDWS organised a one-day workshop on 26th March, 2022 for officials implementing SBM(G).
- A capacity building dashboard has also been developed by DDWS for monitoring of capacity building activities being undertaken by States/UTs.
- The States have been advised to hire Programme Management Units having expertise on specific areas, by using IEC and capacity building funds.
- Technical Manuals and Toolkits on different verticals have been prepared and shared with all the States/UTs for better understanding.
- DDWS is providing resource persons for orientation/workshop/training programs organized by the States, as and when requested.
- Technology manuals on various interventions have been prepared by DDWS and released to States. Workshops have been organized to disseminate the information of various technologies.
- DDWS has launched a Start-up Grand Challenge to scout technologies that could support sustainable, affordable, scalable and responsive solutions to SLWM in rural areas.
- A joint advisory has been issued by the DDWS and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for convergent action plan at State/district levels for Plastic Waste Management and Faecal Sludge Management for urban and rural areas.
- DDWS has issued manual for utilization of 15th Finance Commission tied grants on ODF Plus activities. In coordination with Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), provision has been made for incorporating the sanitation plan as part of Gram Panchayat Development Plan in eGramSwaraj portal. Trainings have been imparted to PRIs so that the effective plan can be developed to achieve the ODF Plus goal. A joint review meeting was also held on 21st June, 2022 with the States under the co-chairpersonship of Secretary, DDWS and Secretary, MoPR.
- Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for amending the development plans prepared and circulated to all States/UTs. Orientation provided to all States on the SOP with support of MoPR.
- Liquid Waste Management has been a priority under the programme and for this the soak pits which is the easiest solution is promoted. A 100 day campaign called '*Sujlam*' (सुजलाम) was launched on 25th August, 2021 focusing on construction of one million soak pits in the rural areas. The target was fully achieved with encouraged participation from all the States/UTs and the communities, and more than 10.9 lakh household and community level soak pits were constructed. To continue the momentum, *Sujlam 2.0* was launched on 22nd March, 2022 (World Water Day). Under *Sujlam 2.0*, about 11.5 lakh soakpits have already been reported constructed. So far, States/UTs have reported on

IMIS about 59% villages having partial or full saturation regarding Grey Water Management.

- A National Film Competition for GPs on ODF plus components was organised during April-August 2021. A total of 4340 entries received.
- Organised a National Wall Painting Competition on ODF Plus components which ran from 15th August to 15th October, 2021. Around 90,000 entries received from the States/UTs.
- Short films of 3-4 minutes duration on all ODF plus components prepared and disseminated.
- All the villages across GPs have been advised to ensure writing of slogans on ODF Plus components at important public places viz. Panchayat office, school, community halls, haatbazaars, etc.
- States/UTs have been advised to take up regular information, education and communication (IEC) and inter personal communication (IPC) activities to make the rural population aware about ODF sustainability and SLWM. DDWS also uses mass media to make the people aware on importance of sanitation.

As reported by the States till 16th July, 2022, 90,607 villages have been covered with Solid Waste Management and 68,127 villages have been covered with Liquid Waste Management. And, 90,080 villages have declared themselves ODF Plus (Aspiring–48,490; Rising–15,191; Model–26,403).

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Recommendation No. 17 (Para No. 2.19)

Implementation of schemes in Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) villages

The Committee observe that Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) was launched on October, 2014 in which all Members of Parliaments (MPs) have to adopt one village in a year with the aim of making it as 'Adarsh Grams'. Accordingly, the Government have urged the State Governments to accord top priority to the SAGY villages in speedy implementation of the various on-going schemes. The Committee express their serious concern over the sorry state of affairs in the villages adopted under SAGY as no priority has been given for the SAGY villages in the implementation of developmental schemes, especially Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission and as a result, the promised holistic development of the villages under SAGY is not taking place. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to ensure implementation of both the flagship schemes of the Department in the SAGY villages on top priority basis and also issue necessary direction to the States in this regard. The action taken in this regard may be apprised to them within three months of the presentation of the Report.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

JJM

Providing tap water connection in SAGY villages is priority area in implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission. The States/ UTs have been requested to expedite tap water connection in SAGY villages during Annual Action Plan discussion and in various meetings.

For prioritizing the coverage, Ministry of Rural Development has also been requested to take up the matter with States for providing tap water connection in SAGY villages during planning and review meetings and expedite work so as to achieve Har Ghar Jal well before 2024. As reported, so far 17.24 lakh (56.57%) rural households in SAGY villages have been provided with tap water connection at their home.

SBM

For implementation of SBM (G), States have been advised to give priority to the SAGY villages. Advisory in this regard was issued to all the States/UTs on 26th March, 2021. Another advisory has been issued to all the States/UTs on 13th June, 2022 to ensure that all the SAGY villages are being prioritized for implementation of SBM (G) in the State. Provision of separate monitoring of progress of SAGY villages has been made in the IMIS of SBM (G). As reported by the States, so far out of the total 6,295 SAGY villages, 1358 villages have been covered with Solid Waste Management and 899 villages have been covered with Liquid Waste Management. 1,325 villages have been declared ODF Plus (Aspiring-770, Rising-155, Model-400).

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Recommendation No. 18 (Para No. 2.20)

Information and Increased Participation of MPs

It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that the Members of Parliament of the concerned districts are not being involved by the respective States at the time of laying of foundation/inauguration of the drinking water works / schemes in their Parliamentary Constituencies. Besides, Members of Parliament are not taken on board or informed as and when nodal officers from Centre/State conduct inspection /meeting with the scheme implementing authorities. Since, Members of Parliament have ear to the ground and are aware of the problems / issues faced by the people at village level, as they have vast repertoire of experience, they should be involved at every stage of implementation of the schemes particularly JJM & SBM(G). The Committee while taking a serious view of the non intimation of information regarding inspection of central / State teams and non involvement of Members in stone laying/inauguration of works taken up in their constituencies, strongly recommend the Department to frame guidelines/ instructions, on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), whereby the Member of Parliament of a constituency is invited at the programme of laying the foundation stone of the new works/projects. The Committee also desire that

the MPs are invariably informed well in time regarding the inspections/meetings conducted to review the implementation of schemes in their district, for their valuable contribution.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

JJM

This Department has issued an Advisory to all States/ UTs vide letter dated 29.01.2021 wherein roles of Hon'ble MPs in planning and implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission was elaborated and they were requested to ensure their active participation and making it a 'Jan Andolan' Further, vide reminders dated 03.08.2021, 27.10.2021, 20.12.2021 and 25.02.2022, States/ UTs have been advised to ensure that Hon'ble MPs are:

- i. consulted while preparing District Action Plans for water supply schemes and are also invited as 'special invitees' in all the DWSSM meetings;
- ii. invited to various official functions organized for bhoomi puja, inauguration/ commissioning of schemes, etc. for which district/ divisional level officers to be sensitized.

Further, the matter has also been raised in various meetings being held from time to time with States/ UTs.

SBM

As provided in SBM(G) Phase-II Operational Guidelines, all the Members of Parliament of the district are members of District Mission/Committee of SBM(G) which is responsible to carry out regular block and GP level reviews of programme implementation. An advisory has also been issued to all the States/UTs on 4th July, 2022 by the DDWS to ensure that meetings of the District Mission/Committee of SBM (G) are held regularly and the Members of Parliament of the districts are invariably invited in all such meetings. The States/UTs have also been advised to sensitize district level officers that the Members of Parliament may also be invited during the stone laying/inauguration of works, if any, taken up in their constituencies.

SBM(G) is also covered in the review of District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) constituted by Ministry of Rural Development, which is chaired by Members of Parliament

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

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.1 (Para No. 2.1& 2.2)

Analysis of Budgetary provision of Jal Jeevan Mission

The Committee note that Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was announced in August, 2019 to enable every rural household to have assured and clean water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by 2024, which is being implemented in the States/UTs in a Mission Mode. As on date, out of 19.18 crore, 8.96 crore(46.48 %) rural households have access to clean potable water supply at their homes. The Committee are happy to note that the State Governments/Union Territories of Haryana, Telangana, Goa, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, D & N Haveli and Puducherry have achieved cent percent target of providing tap water connections to households. The Committee also appreciate that States like Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat which have achieved more than 90% household coverage and are expected to achieve cent percent coverage very soon. The Committee, however, express concern over the plight of bigger States like Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu which are providing below 40% FHTCs to their households. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Department should impress upon these State Governments to take appropriate steps for providing tap water connections to all the households in keeping with the target year fixed.

The Committee further observe that as against the demand of Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation for allocation of an amount of Rs. 91,258 crore, Rs. 60,000 crore only has been allocated for the year 2022-23. Keeping in view the fact that around 53.52% of rural households still require Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in different States/UTs, allocations under JJM for the year 2022-23 seems to be inadequate as the budgetary support provided is short by Rs. 31,258 crore against the initial demand. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to strive to utilize the allocated funds at the earliest so that they have sufficient justification to ask for additional funds at the RE stage.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Department has identified 13 major States having more than 9.08 Crore (95%) of the remaining households (HHs) across the Country and has been regularly impressing upon them to prioritize the coverage of remaining HHs. A recent meeting at the level of Secretary (DDWS) has also been held with these 13 States in Odisha to review the progress under JJM, identify challenges being faced, sharing experiences and best practices, etc.

Allocation of the fund for the year 2022-23 among the States/ UTs have been completed. So far, in the current financial year i.e. in April & May, 2022, States/ UTs reported to have utilized an amount of Rs. 5,664.85 Crore for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 8 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No.5 (Para No. 2.6)

Waiving off of user charges form the local communities

The Committee note that under extant guidelines of the JJM, 5 % contribution has to be made by local communities towards the capital cost in cash and or in kind or labour in hilly/forested areas, NE/Himalayan States & villages having more than 50% SCs or STs population and 10 % of the capital cost in case of other villages, for in-village piped water supply infrastructure and related resources development to be implemented by Gram Panchayat and or VWSCs/Paani Samiti/User Group etc. Further willingness of the community contribution from at least 80 % of the household is pre-requisite for taking up water supply scheme. However, the GPs and/ or its sub committees may consider exempting individual contribution from poor, infirm, divyangjan or widow with no source of steady income. In this regard, the Committee observe that in the erstwhile National Rural Drinking Water programme there was no such stipulation of mandatory community contributions towards the capital cost. The Committee are of the considered view that since providing water to rural population is not only a basic necessity but also an integral function of a Welfare State, like India, any mandatory contribution by community would perhaps undermine the efforts for realization of the goal of providing water connection to every household. Further, considering the poor economic conditions of the rural masses, the Committee recommend that the Department should seriously consider waiving off the community contribution towards the capital cost of water supply infrastructure and related source development. The Committee would like to be apprised of the steps/initiative taken by the Department in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

To instill the 'sense of ownership' among rural masses, under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), there is a provision of community contribution to the extent of 5% of the cost of in-village infrastructure in case of North Eastern & Himalayan States, forested/ hilly areas, SC/ ST dominated villages and 10% in rest of the areas.

Under JJM, willingness of the community and contribution from at least 80% households of the village is a pre-requisite for taking up water supply scheme. The community contribution can be in the form of cash and/ or kind and/ or labour. Further, Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee, i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee/ Pani Samiti/ User Group, etc. may exempt individual contribution from poor, infirm, divyangjan or widow with no source of steady income.

Further, provisions have also been made for rewarding the community with 10% of the cost of in-village infrastructure, after successful commissioning of the scheme, which would serve as revolving fund to meet any unforeseen expenditure due to major break down, etc., thereby assuring continuous water supply.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 20 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 7 (Para No. 2.8)

Non-completion of road repair works after laying of pipelines under JJM

The Committee are happy to note that the laying of pipelines under Jal Jeevan Mission (Gramin) is undertaken at a massive scale throughout the country for providing safe and clean drinking water to the rural masses. However, the Committee note with concern that in several States after laying water pipelines, the damaged roads are not rehabilitated or repaired due to the negligence and callousness on the part of the concerned authorities. The damaged roads are often filled with soil or kept open instead of bringing them back to their original form. This not only gives shabby look but also lead to obstacles/hassles to the commuters. The villagers face a number of hardships ranging from day to day commutation to potential danger of accidents, particularly at night. The Committee, therefore, urge upon the Department to look into the matter seriously and issue advisories to the States / authorities concerned to ensure that the damaged roads get repaired promptly soon after laying of the pipelines by the contractor/implementing agencies.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

To avoid any hardships to the villagers, the Department has been taking this issue with States at all levels. Further, the States vide letter dated 22.11.2021 and reminders dated 17.03.2022 and 27.05.2022 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.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 26 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 12 (Para No. 2.13)

Third Party Inspection

The Committee note that under the JJM, the State Water & Sanitation Missions (SWSMs) have empanelled third party verification agencies to check the quality of work executed by the Implementing Agencies. From the data furnished by the Department, the Committee are surprised to note that 14 States/Union Territories have not reported the details of the empanelment of the third party inspection agencies. Moreover, the numbers of Inspecting Agencies engaged by the States are abysmally very low in comparison to the size of the States. The Committee, therefore, urge the Department to direct the States/UTs to empanel more and more third party inspecting agencies, so as to ascertain the veracity of works executed by the agencies. The Committee would also like to be apprised of the reasons for non-reporting of data by States/UTs in this regard.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Provisions have been made for carrying out third party inspection of the assets created under JJM. State Water & Sanitation Missions have been empowered for empanelment of third-party inspection agencies. So far, as reported, 147 third party inspection agencies have been engaged in 28 States/ UTs.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 35 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 13 (Para No. 2.14)

Issue of contamination of water in Ganganagar district, Rajasthan

Contamination of water is a serious issue as it is directly related to the health of the people. The problem is extremely alarming as the number of cases of cancer in certain areas is rising alarmingly. The Committee in their earlier Reports also underlined the issue of water contamination especially in Ganganagar district of Rajasthan and its adjoining areas and urged upon the Department to take up the matter with the State Government of Rajasthan to prepare a time bound action plan for installing water purification plants on priority basis to ensure supply of clean and potable drinking water in the rural habitations. However, the Committee are concerned to note that no tangible progress has been made in this direction to mitigate the suffering of the affected people in the Ganganagar district. The Committee, therefore, reiterate that the Department

should take up the matter at the highest level with the Government of Rajasthan, so that inhabitants of Ganganagar district are provided with clean drinking water at the earliest.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

As informed by the State of Rajasthan, canal based water sources are used for water supply schemes for 2,834 villages in the Ganga Nagar district and 1,076 villages are covered through water supply schemes with water sources from Ganga Canal system. Raw water from the canal-based system is purified and chlorinated before supplying to villages. Further, chemical testing of the raw water samples is done from time to time and results of latest chemical testing done in November, 2021 has revealed that chemical contaminants are under the permissible limits.

Further, this Department has requested the State of Punjab, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board and Dept. of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to take corrective action required to avoid discharge of industrial waste in Ganga Canal.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 38 of Chapter I of the Report)

Recommendation No. 15 (Para No. 2.16)

Increase in unit assistance under SBM (G)

The Committee note that at present financial incentive of Rs. 12,000/- to BPL and identified Above Poverty Line households, under SBM (G), are being provided for construction of toilets. The Committee are of the considered opinion that the existing per unit assistance is grossly insufficient and nowhere near to the actual cost of construction of toilets even if a beneficiary puts his own labour. The Committee are of the opinion that the incentive be enhanced commensurately keeping in view the rising cost of the construction material of the toilets. They, therefore, strongly recommend the Department to consider the feasibility of enhancing the per unit assistance for toilets, from the existing rate of Rs. 12,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- for BPL and identified APL households in rural areas.

REPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT

Out of the incentive amount of Rs.12000/- for construction Individual Household Latrine (IHHL), the Central share amount provided in the North Eastern (NE) States and the Himalayan States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and UT of Jammu & Kashmir is Rs.10,800, and in the remaining States it is Rs.7,200. NE States and Himalayan States as mentioned have to provide minimum share Rs.1,200 and remaining States

have to provide minimum share Rs.4,800. The States can provide higher State share funds by providing additional funds. The beneficiaries should also be encouraged to add their own share in order to promote ownership and usage of the toilets.

(O.M. No. H-11013/3/2022-Coord/Parl. dated: 20.07.2022)

Comment of the Committee

(Please see Para No 41 of Chapter I of the Report)

CHAPTER – V

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

NIL

**New Delhi
07 February, 2023
18 Magha, 1944 (Saka)**

**Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Water Resources**

ANNEXURE-II
[Vide Para 4 of the Introduction]

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS/ OBSERVATIONS CONTAINED IN THE SIXTEENTH REPORT (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA) OF THE COMMITTEE

(i)	Total number of Recommendations/Observations	18
(ii)	Recommendation/Observations which have been accepted by the Government Sl. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17 and 18	Total - 12 <i>Percentage -66.67%</i>
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Sl. Nos. NIL	Total - NIL <i>Percentage- 0%</i>
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Sl. Nos.1, 5, 7, 12, 13 and 15	Total - 06 <i>Percentage 33.33 - %</i>
(v)	Recommendation/Observation in respect of which final reply of the Government is still awaited Sl. Nos. NIL	Total - NIL <i>Percentage - 0%</i>