

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 104
ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

ASSESSMENT OF DRINKING WATER AVAILABILITY IN BARMER AND JAISALMER

104. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted district-wise assessments of drinking water stress in Barmer and Jaisalmer and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the status of household tap connections provided under the Jal Jeevan Mission in these districts;
- (c) whether desalination or long-distance pipeline solutions are under consideration and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which the sustainability of drinking water supply is ensured in extreme arid conditions?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) To make provision of tap water supply to every rural household across the country, including those in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan, Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), since August 2019.

At the start of the Mission, around 6 thousand (2.28%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in Barmer district of Rajasthan. So far, as reported by the State, around 52 thousand rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 24.01.2026, out of 2.73 lakh rural households in the district, more than 58 thousand (21.26%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Similarly, at the start of the Mission, around 2 thousand (1.99%) rural households were reported to have tap water connections in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. So far, as reported by the State, around 59 thousand rural households have been provided with tap water connections under JJM. Thus, as on 24.01.2026, out of 1.23 lakh rural households in the district, more than 61 thousand (49.83%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

(c) & (d) Drinking Water being a State subject, it is States, who plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance.

Under the mission, 30% weightage is assigned for difficult terrains which *inter alia* include areas under Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) while allocating the fund, to prioritize the coverage in these areas. Provisions have also been made for planning and implementation of bulk water transfer from long distances and regional water supply schemes for ensuring tap water supply in drought-prone & water-scarce areas/ areas with inadequate rainfall or dependable ground water sources. In addition, provisions have been made for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rain water recharge, rejuvenation of existing water bodies, etc., in convergence with other schemes such as VB-G RAM G, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc.

As numerous projects are implemented concurrently at various levels across the States for achieving the envisaged objectives, project-wise details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects, *including those of source augmentation and desalination or long-distance pipeline*, are maintained at the State Government level.
