



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 109 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION
versus STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order on board

24.02.2025	This is an office reference. Heard Shri PN Bharat, learned Advocate General and Shri Shashank Thakur, learned Dy AG for the State. Also heard Shri Prasun Agrawal, learned counsel appearing for the intervener. Pursuant to the order dated 08.01.2025 passed by this Court, The Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Public Health & Engineering, has filed an affidavit dated 20.02.2025, the relevant portion of which reads as under: “4. That, in view of the directions issued by this Hon'ble Court on 08.01.2025 it is most respectfully

submitted that there has been substantial progress in the works with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission. It is submitted that as on 14. 02. 2025 total 32,092 sources were identified or developed as compared to 28649 sources reported in the affidavit dated 03.01 3025. A copy of the relevant information with respect to status of sources is annexed herewith **ANNEXURE D-1.** Similarly, the total 8,732 overhead tanks have been constructed as on 14.02.2025 as compared to 7,292 Overhead Tanks (OHT) reported in the earlier filed affidavit, relevant data is annexed showing the status of over head tanks constructions as on 14.02.2025 is herewith as **ANNEXURE D-2.** It is further submitted that on 14.02.2025 total 13,721 solar pumps have been installed whereas 3.959 solar pumps are yet to be unstalled Copy of the status report of the solar pumps installation is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D-3.**

That, it is further submitted that total 2,857 villages have been certified as Har Ghar Jal Village as on 14.02.2025, whereas, in the earlier affidavit at page no.36 the number of Har Ghar Jal certified villages was 2,568. A copy of the relevant data showcasing increase in the number of certified villages is annexed herewith as **Annexure D-4.** Thus, it can be safely stated that there has been substantial progress in the identification and development of sources, construction of overhead tanks, solar pump installation and Har Ghar Jal Village certification.

5. As submitted earlier this Jal Jeevan Mission is a centrally funded project wherein 50% of the projected cost is born by the central government whereas the rest 50% is born by the respective State Governments. It is submitted that the Member Secretary of the State Water and Sanitation Mission cum Secretary Department of Public Health Engineering Works, State of Chhattisgarh videlis

letter dated 14.11.2024 has made a request to the Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission, Government of India for release of second trench of first installment of Jal Jeevan Mission Fund for the year 2024-25. A copy of the letter dated 14.11.2004 in annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D-5.**

6. There after again on 03.01.2025 and 10.01.2005 the request was made to the Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission for release of funds. Copies of the letter dated 03.01.2025 and 10.01.2025 are annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D-6.**

7. That it is most respectfully submitted that in response to the above mentioned letters the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, vide letter dated 13.02.2025 informed the Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Government of Chhattisgarh, that the Jal Jeevan Mission has been

extended till 2028 and the department has already taken up the matter of adjustment/settlement of advance matching State share given by various States with the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and further the approval of competent authority for continuation of Jal Jeevan Mission is under Government consideration of the department. A copy of the letter dated 13.02.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure D-7**.

8. That, at the cost of repetition, it is further most respectfully submitted that out of the total share of the State Government (ie. 12968.21) Cr the State has released 7292. 28 Cr. and further a provision of Rs. 4499.99 Cr. has been made in the budget for the financial year 2024-25.

9. That, it is respectfully submitted that the State of Chhattisgarh is duty bound to provide the safe and clean drinking water to every household in the State of Chhattisgarh for which all best and sincere

efforts and endeavors are being made by the Department so that the main object and purpose of the scheme of Jal Jeevan Mission could be achieved by providing the safe and clean drinking water to every rural household in the State of Chhattisgarh.”

Learned Advocate General appearing for the State would submit that there is substantial progress in the works with respect to Jal Jeevan Mission, and most of the work is completed. As it has been defined by the State in the earlier order dated 08.01.2025, release of the balance share of 60% fund from the Central Government is still awaited, so that the project on the part of the State Government could be completed. Learned Advocate General states that funds are required from the department concerned, which has not been allocated yet.

In view of above submission made by the learned State counsel, Registry is directed that the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India be made as party respondent **during course of the day** and copies of petition as well as necessary documents and the affidavit dated

20.02.2025 be supplied to the learned Standing Counsel for the Union of India.

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India is directed to file an affidavit by the next date of hearing, after going through the affidavit and averments made in para-7 of the said affidavit, filed by the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Public Health Engineering, Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, on 20th February, 2025.

Learned counsel appearing for the intervener would submit that he has filed IA-1 of 2025, application for intervention in the present Writ Petition.

On due consideration, IA-1 of 2025 is allowed.

Learned counsel for the intervener would submit that as per the reports of the Public health Engineering (PHE) Department, many villages in Ambikapur, District-Sarguja are still waiting for the promised water connections under the Jal

Jeevan Mission. Particularly, in villages of Gram Panchayat Balsedi, Kulhadi, Khaliba and Sargawan, located in Ambikapur, Tehsil-Surguja District are still not getting water supply.

Learned Advocate General would assure that he would do the needful with respect to the cause which has been brought to the notice of this Court with respect to the above mentioned villages, and the authorities concerned will file affidavit by the next date of hearing.

Let the matter be listed on **8th April, 2025** for further monitoring in the matter.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice