



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 109 of 2024

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

17/06/2025	This is an office reference. Heard. Mr. Shashank Thakur, Dy.A.G. for the State/respondent/s. Mr. Ramakant Mishra, D.S.G.I. Ms. Aditi Singhvi, learned counsel for the intervenor. Heard. In compliance of Court order dated 24/02/2025, the State has filed his affidavit on 04/04/2025 and Mr. Ramakant Mishra, D.S.G.I. for the Union of India has also filed his affidavit on 07/04/2025. The relevant portion of affidavit filed by the State dated 04/04/2025 stated as under:- <i>4. That, it is further most respectfully submitted</i>

that the villages namely Balsedi, Kulhadi, Khaliba and Sargawan fall under the Group Water Supply Scheme Khairbar. It is submitted that total 32 villages including the above mentioned four villages are included in the Khairbar water supply scheme, wherein there is a provision of drawing water from river and after treating the same the clean drinking water will be supplied in the total 32 villages through pipe lines and in this regard work order has been issued on 28.02.2024 to an agency for construction, testing and commissioning of project. The completion date of the said works was up to the month of February 2025, however the same could not be completed and the same has been extended for a further period of one year (i.e. up to February 2026). It is submitted that as soon as the abovementioned work is completed the water drawn from the river will be supplied to these 32 villages after treating the same. A copy of work order has annexed herewith as ANNEXURE X-2.

5. That, it is further most respectfully submitted that it has been contended in the intervention application that there is scarcity of water in the above mentioned villages. Above stated contention is factually incorrect because there are total 13 handpumps in village Balsedi, 11 handpumps in village Kulhadi, 27 in village Khaliba and 34 in village Sargawan and all the handpumps are in working conditions and the villagers are drawing clean water from the said handpumps. A copy of the details with respect to the handpumps and population of the said villages is annexed as ANNEXURE X-3.

6. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a very ambitious project of the Government of India and the state of Chhattisgarh is keen to complete the same within the time frame so as to ensure that clean drinking water is available to every rural household. That, the above submissions and documents may kindly be taken on records of the case.”

The relevant portion of affidavit filed by the Union of India is stated as under:-

"5. That the said news article claims that officials of the Public Health Engineering Department have obtained certification asserting 100% completion of water supply coverage in various villages, whereas, in reality, only a limited number of households are receiving water supply.

6. That, as per the said report, in the village of Daihanpara, water is being supplied to only 130 houses, constituting merely 20% of the total population. Furthermore, it has been reported that in Village Panchayat Bannakdih, water supply connections are allegedly being denied to individuals who do not possess ration cards.

7. That the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched in the financial year 2019-20 with the objective of providing every rural household with a functional tap water connection in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality, on a regular and sustainable basis, at an affordable cost, thereby improving the living standards of rural

communities.

8. That the Mission period for JJM was upto 31st March, 2024 with an outlay of Rs. 3.60 Lakh Crore. All the States/ UTs were informed that the Central share will be available only within that period. For, FY 2024-25, extension was given from Union Ministry of Finance to spend the savings from the outlay till 31st March, 2025 and the same has been exhausted.

9. That the Hon'ble Finance Minister, in her budget speech for the financial year 2025-26, has announced the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028. The allocation of additional funds to the States/Union Territories shall be considered as per the applicable guidelines upon formal approval of the extension by the Cabinet and completion of requisite administrative processes.

10. That drinking water supply falls within the domain of the State Governments, and the Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to support their efforts under

the Jal Jeevan Mission. The planning, approval, and execution of rural drinking water supply schemes, including those under the Jal Jeevan Mission, are undertaken by the respective State Governments. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the State Government to take further action.

The State has also filed an affidavit of Executive Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering on 07/04/2025.

"1. That, the present suo moto Public Interest Litigation has been registered on the basis of news item published in the Daily News Paper Dainik Bhaskar Bilaspur Chhattisgarh Dated 24.12.2024 alleging that, the officers of Public Health Engineering Department of Chhattisgarh have played fraud and have obtained certificate claiming 100% completion of water supply in all the houses of various villages.

2. That, on earlier occasions affidavits have been filed on behalf of the State in compliance of the Hon'ble Court's order dated 26.12.2024 and 08.01.2025 and the deponent respectfully submits

that, he is duty bound to follow all the directions & orders passed by this Hon'ble Court from time to time and is having deepest & highest regard for this Hon'ble Court.

3. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that there has been substantial increase in the overall certification of villages as Har Ghar Jal village in the affidavit filed on 21.02.2025, there were total 2,857 villages whereas as on date (i.e. up to 02.04.2025) total 3,266 villages have been certified as Har Ghar Jal Village in the State of Chhattisgarh and thus, there is increase of 409 villages. A copy of the relevant data in format J8 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE D-8.

4. That, it is further submitted that as far as the water sources are concerned in the earlier affidavit it was submitted that total 32,092 sources were either identified or developed and presently that is up to 01.04.2025 the total number of sources has increased up to 34,164. Thus, there is increase of 2,072 sources. That as far as over head tanks (OHT) is concerned in the earlier affidavit it was reported that total 8,732 tanks have

been constructed. Presently the total number of over head tanks were under construction have been completed and the figure has risen to 9,183. Thus, there is substantial increase of total 451 numbers of over head tanks. Similarly, there has been substantial increase in the numbers of installation of Solar pumps under the mission. Earlier total 13,721 solar pumps were reported to be installed but as on date total 13998 solar pumps have been installed. Thus, there is an increase in installation of 277 solar pumps. A copy of the relevant data of the progressed report with respect to OHT sources and Solar pumps is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE D-9.

5. That, it is further submitted that the funds which have been received then the status report were carried out the various work under the mission has been increased from 7292.28 Cr. to 9042.28 Cr. That, the deponent most respectfully Chhattisgarh submits that the is committed Government towards of successful completion of the desirous project and is taking every steps to complete the same within time frame.

Gowri/ Amardeep	<i>6. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a very ambitious project of the Government of India and the state of Chhattisgarh is keen to complete the same, so as to ensure that clean drinking water is available to every household. The above submissions and documents may kindly be taken on records of the case.</i> Considering the entire facts and circumstances of the case, particularly considering the fact that the scheme has been extended upto February, 2028, we deem it appropriate to monitor the matter by keeping the petition pending. Before the next date of hearing, the respondent authorities are directed to submit the latest development report in respect of the subject matter. Post it on 15/09/2025. SD/- (Bibhu Datta Guru) Judge SD/- (Ramesh Sinha) Chief Justice
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