

## **Need for expeditious release of funds for better implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission**

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir.

Access to tap water is a basic necessity of every household. To ensure universal access to tap water in rural areas till the year 2024, the Government had initiated the Jal Jeevan Mission. However, it is falling short of achieving its objectives within the said timeframe. Although the progress made under the scheme is acknowledged, the target of providing tap water connection to 19.36 crore rural households till the year 2024 seems a distant reality because only 55 per cent i.e., only 10.71 crore households have received a tap water connection as of now. About half of the target number has been achieved in four years since the scheme was launched in 2019. Keeping this in mind, the claims of the Government that rest of the target number can be achieved in just one year seems highly improbable. Though the Jal Jeevan Mission has received a hike in the 2023-24 Union Budget, it is only so useful as out of Rs. 60,000 crores allocated for the Mission in 2022-23, only Rs. 22,774.55 crores had been released to the eligible States/Union Territories till December, 2022. Therefore, what is needed is a better implementation of the scheme at the ground level and an expedited release of funds by the Centre so that universal access to tap water in rural areas can be made a reality in the near future.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:**

Shri Ritesh Pandey ji ? Not present.

Now, Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil.