CHAPTER-VII

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Conclusion

JJM is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water to 50 lakh HHs of the State by 2024. The State could provide FHTC to 38.97 lakh HHs by March 2024.

Audit observed that there was no bottom-up approach in the preparation of VAPs and DAPs. The SAP was not prepared. The AAPs prepared from 2019-20 to 2023-24 were unrealistic and deficient and thus, the State could not achieve the FHTC targets outlined in the AAPs throughout the mission period. Non-prioritisation of schemes like retrofitting of existing schemes, coverage of aspirational districts within the scheduled period was observed.

Villages identified to be covered under MVS were being executed with unsustainable ground water source based SVS and retrofitting schemes due to non-finalisation and delayed initiation of MVS. Short allocation of water may deprive a minimum of 55 LPCD of drinking water as per the JJM norms, undermining the entire MVS's sustainability.

Excess FHTCs connected to the SPV systems beyond their capacity failed to provide the prescribed minimum service level of 55 LPCD drinking water. Due to non-achievement of annual targets, the State Mission could not get Central share of ₹ 3,285.38 crore and the corresponding matching State share of ₹ 3,194.66 crore. The revision of the USOR without conducting a detailed, item-wise rate analysis led to preparation of unreliable cost estimates. The State Mission did not collect funds from community contributions and convergence with other Central and State schemes. Poor capacity building, skilling and IEC activities in villages were noticed.

There was a significant shortfall in the establishment of water quality testing infrastructure, NABL accreditation and short utilisation of funds. Non-achievement of the target for water quality testing, non-conducting of bacteriological tests during pre and post monsoon periods, re-testing of contaminated samples, acute shortage of manpower and inadequate training to staff were observed.

GoCG aimed to achieve 19,656 villages as '*Har Ghar Jal*' by 2024, against which 716 villages were certified as HGJ. Instances of reporting and certification of HGJ villages with incomplete schemes were noticed during joint physical inspection by Audit. Chhattisgarh State was lagging in achieving the primary output of providing FHTC to all rural households by March 2024, achievement as per IMIS was 78 *per cent*, however, the data shows significant issues with the reliability and functionality of the water connections, despite the initial infrastructure being established under JJM.

The water supply systems executed under JJM faced sustainability challenges due to inadequate planning, poor designing of Solar based systems, execution of schemes without ensuring availability of sustainable water sources, lack of water quality testing facilities, inadequate testing, gaps in financial resources and community engagement, and weak institutional monitoring. Higher reporting of FHTC without completion of scheme and ascertaining its functionality and incorrect '*Har Ghar Jal*' certification further marred the scheme. Therefore, the risk of failure in delivering long-term sustainable drinking water supply to the rural population remains high.

7.2 Recommendations

Based on the audit findings, we recommend that the State Government should:

- ***Assess the actual status of funds and incomplete works and ensure the timely completion of water supply schemes especially in priority areas.***
- ***Adopt streamlined procedures for inter-departmental co-ordination for convergence of funds at the apex level.***
- ***Review the process of reporting and certification of 'Har Ghar Jal' to address the issues of false certification highlighted by the Audit.***
- ***Ensure functional water testing laboratories with NABL accreditation, along with adequate manpower and equipment.***
- ***Review the sustainability of the schemes with special focus on community ownership, water source identification to ensure water security for future generations.***

Raipur **(MOHD. FAIZAN NAYYAR)**
The: 30 March 2026 **Accountant General (Audit)**
Chhattisgarh

Countersigned

New Delhi **(K. SANJAY MURTHY)**
The: 06 April 2026 **Comptroller and Auditor General of India**