Water scheme for rural households to focus on women

All rural households in India will get tap water supply at three points - kitchen, washing/bathing place and toilet - by 2024 with women participating in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the scheme which aims to supply piped water to every household.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the operational guidelines for Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) issued by the drinking water department on Wednesday, which primarily implement the “Har Ghar Jal” scheme.

The scheme will be driven by panchayats, village water and sanitation committee (VWSC), paani samitis or user groups in villages to ensure that little over 81% rural households get 55 litres per person per day (LPCD) within the deadline. Since the number of households that have not yet got the tap water supply may have gone up and hence all states will need to complete a fresh baseline survey by March, 2020.

The government will have a centralised dashboard for live updates of the coverage. To implement the JJM, there will be institutional mechanism at four levels - national, state, district and at gram panchayat or its sub-committees.

The paani samiti or the user group will decide about the user fee for sustainability of the scheme. The policy guideline said 50% of the members of these samitis will have to be women.