

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*82**

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022

**CONDUCTING SURVEY IN AREAS WITH LOW GROUNDWATER**

\*82 SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted in the low groundwater areas in the country for the conservation of groundwater;
- (b) if so, the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh, where the groundwater level is found below average level; and
- (c) the efforts being made by Government to resolve the problem related to groundwater and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*82 TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022 REGARDING “CONDUCTING SURVEY IN AREAS WITH LOW GROUNDWATER”.**

**(a)** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) regularly conducts dynamic groundwater resource assessment of the country, including low groundwater areas, in collaboration with States. The last groundwater assessment in this regard was made in 2020. Further, CGWB periodically monitors ground water levels throughout the country through a network of monitoring wells.

**(b)** As per the 2020 assessment, out of the total 830 assessment units (Blocks) in Uttar Pradesh, 66 Blocks (around 8%) falling in 27 districts have been categorized as ‘over-exploited’ where the annual extraction is more than the available annual resource.

The groundwater level data (as on Nov 2021) of Uttar Pradesh, when compared with the decadal average (Nov 2011 to Nov 2020), shows rise in groundwater level in around 74 percent wells. Further, fall in groundwater levels from the decadal average was observed in more than 50 % wells in 17 districts, namely Agra, Aligarh, Budaun, Bulandshahar, Etah, Fatehpur, Firozabad, Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Jyotibha Phule Nagar, Kannauj, Mahoba, Mahrajganj, Mainpuri, Meerut, Moradabad and Rampur. In addition, in around 67% wells of Uttar Pradesh, the groundwater level found to be in the range of 0-5 mbgl.

**(c)** Government of India has taken a number of initiatives for effective rainwater harvesting/groundwater recharge for sustainable management of groundwater resources in the country. The initiatives in this regard can be accessed through web-link [http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water\\_depletion\\_july2022.pdf](http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf). Some of the important initiatives in this regard have been given at **Annexure**.

Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts in the country with the primary aim to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. JSA for the year 2020 could not be taken up on account of COVID pandemic. JSA for the year 2021 was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 22.03.2021 covering all districts in the country. JSA for the year 2022 was launched by Hon'ble President of India on 29.03.2022. As per available information, under JSA 2021, during the period from 22nd March 2021 to 28th

March 2022, around 10.65 lakh rainwater conservation & harvesting structures were created and around 1.79 lakh traditional water bodies were renovated in the country.

Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Central Government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, in collaboration with States, in certain water stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The primary aim of the scheme is demand side management through scientific means involving the local communities at village levels leading to sustainable groundwater management in the targeted areas.

CGWB is implementing National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM) with an aim to identify the groundwater aquifer system along-with their characterization for its sustainable management. Out of the total mappable area of nearly 25 lakh sq km, nearly 22.10 lakh sq km of the area (as on 30th June 2022) in the country has been covered. The balance area has been targeted to be covered by March 2023. The NAQUIM study report alongwith management plans are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

The Central Government has notified groundwater regulation guidelines dated 24.09.2020 for controlling the extraction of groundwater by various consumers/project proponents like industries, infrastructure projects and mining projects under which No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction has been made mandatory.

Water is a State subject and several States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting such as 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana, and Kudimaramath scheme in Tamil Nadu.

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## **ANNEXURE**

### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*82 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 25.07.22 REGARDING “CONDUCTING SURVEY IN AREAS WITH LOW GROUNDWATER”**

Important initiatives on management of groundwater resources

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions. The JSA mostly concentrates on creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, reuse and recharge structures, intensive afforestation, awareness generation etc.

In addition, Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken up the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) with the theme “Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country during 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021. The campaign was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 22 March 2021. Further, Hon’ble President of India launched JSA for the year 2022 on 29 Mar 2022 which shall be continued till 30 Nov 2022.

Department of Water Resources, RD & GR is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs.6,000 crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. Atal Jal is being implemented in 80 water stressed districts and 8,562 Gram Panchayats of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, 550 Gram panchayats in 10 water stressed districts have been taken up under the scheme.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), in consultation with States/UTs, has prepared ‘Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater - 2020’. The Master Plan – 2020 is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country. The Master

Plan - 2020 envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The Master Plan envisages construction of about 23,668 artificial recharge structures in Uttar Pradesh to harness 2,743 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of monsoon rainfall.

National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM) is being implemented by CGWB. NAQUIM envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of groundwater resources in the country. NAQUIM outputs are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions. In Uttar Pradesh, out of 2,41,345 sq. km. area identified, 2,06,914 sq. km. has been completed and further, Ground Water Management Plan for 34 districts have been shared with State Government agencies for suitable interventions.

The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 19 States/UTs including Uttar Pradesh have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) - 2016 circulated by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States / UTs. So far 33 States / UTs have adopted the provisions of rainwater harvesting of MBBL-2016 including Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India generally supports artificial groundwater recharge/water harvesting works in the country through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojana - Watershed Development component (PMKSY-WDC).

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