

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1210

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER LEVEL

1210. DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps which have been taken by Government for development of groundwater level;
- (b) whether any suggestions have been received from the World Bank for development of groundwater;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government on the measures suggested by the World Bank;
- (d) whether certain international fora on groundwater have also suggested various steps for sustainable development of groundwater; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being State subject, the sustainable development and management of groundwater is the responsibility of States, however, Central government assists the States through technical and financial assistance.

Central Government is promoting conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater, participatory groundwater management to effectively utilize groundwater and surface water sources as per availability in most efficient manner. Central Government is also promoting preparation/utilization of Water Security Plan/Water Conservation plan at Gram Panchayat/Village level to utilize available water sources in a sustainable manner.

Groundwater resource assessment of the country is being done periodically by CGWB and States. The resource assessment, since 2022, has been made an annual feature. The data collected through such assessments are shared with States for sustainable management of the groundwater resource in their respective jurisdiction.

Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country in order to effectively tap the financial resources available through various schemes like MGNREGA, PMKSY-WDC, relevant State schemes etc and to monitor the progress with respect to water harvesting/recharge, intensive afforestation, awareness generation etc. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed

blocks of 256 districts which continued during the year 2021 (across entire country both rural and urban areas). JSA for the year 2021 and 2022 were launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble President on 22.03.2021 and 29.03.2022 respectively. Mission Amrit Sarovar is also being implemented to create/rejuvenate water bodies.

(b) & (c) Central government in collaboration with World Bank took up the scheme of Atal Bhujal Yojana, a participatory groundwater management in certain water stressed areas on pilot basis. Total outlay of the scheme is Rs 6000.00 Crore with 50% funding from World Bank. The scheme is being implemented in select water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 229 administrative blocks/Talukas in 80 districts of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh.

The scheme is being implemented through active participation of the communities in the participating States in various activities such as monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, preparation of GP wise Water Security Plans having demand side as well as supply side intervention proposed including Rain Water Harvesting Structures & their implementation through convergence of ongoing schemes and IEC activities related to sustainable groundwater management.

(d) No suggestions from international fora on sustainable groundwater development have been received.

(e) The question does not arise in view of the reply given at para (d) above.
