

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1219**

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

**WATER SCARCITY IN THE COUNTRY**

1219. DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the country is going to become water scarce in another few years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to conduct any study on the demand and supply of water in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure that there will be no scarcity of water in the country?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) to (c)** The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. Also due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability in many regions of the country is low and this may result in water stress / scarce conditions.

The study “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs” has been carried out by Central Water Commission (CWC) in 2019. As per the study, the average annual water resources of the 20 basins of the country has been assessed as 1999.20 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). Also, a projected estimate for water uses for year 2050 was made in its report by National Commission for Integrated water resources Development, 1999 (NCIWRD). Further analysis of the estimates of NCIWRD and Reassessment of Water Availability study shows per capita water availability and per capita water use for year 2050 as 1219 cum/year (cubic metre per year) and 740 cum/year respectively for the country.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a report on 24 cities titled “Groundwater Resources Vs Domestic Water Demand and Supply for select cities in India” taking information from Regional Offices of CGWB and State agencies. The 24 cities include Delhi, Gandhinagar, Ambala, Faridabad, Gurgaon, Yamunanagar, Bangalore, Indore, Ratlam, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Mohali, Patiala, Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Chennai, Vellore, Hyderabad, Agra and Ghaziabad. As per the analysis of data it is indicated that the groundwater system can sustain the proposed envisaged supply from groundwater system in all the 24 cities.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

The Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal, which aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long term basis to every rural household through tap water connection by 2024.

Government of India has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 in select 500 cities and towns across the country. The water supply component includes new, augmentation and rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies for drinking water supply and special water supply arrangement for difficult areas, hills and coastal cities, including those having water quality problem.

During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going major/medium irrigation projects (and 7 phases) under PMKSY - Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) were prioritized in consultation with States for completion in phases out of which AIBP works of 53 projects have been completed. An additional irrigation potential of 25.11 lakh hectare has been created during 2016-17 to 2022-23 by these projects in the country.

Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, with focus on community participation, demand side interventions and convergence of ongoing schemes for sustainable ground water management is being implemented from 1st April 2020 in select water stressed areas of seven States – Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain is a campaign which aims to encourage water conservation at grass-root levels with people's participation. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in the year 2019 in 256 water stressed districts of the country which has later been implemented across the country annually as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) since 2021. JSA:CTR has become an annual feature since 2021 and the fourth in the series, JSA: CTR 2023 has been launched on 04.03.2023 by Hon’ble President with the theme “Source Sustainability for Drinking Water”. The campaign covers all rural and urban areas of all districts (all blocks and municipalities) across the country. The focused interventions of the campaign include (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies (iii) preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it *Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras* in all districts (iv) intensive afforestation and (v) awareness generation.

Some steps taken by Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation are available at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>  
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