

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1681**

ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

**ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA**

1681#. SHRI NARHARI AMIN

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

- (a) the main objectives of the Atal Bhujal Yojana;
- (b) the steps taken so far towards the groundwater conservation through this scheme;
- (c) the major works carried out in the State of Gujarat under this scheme so far; and
- (d) whether Government is considering on expanding this scheme, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The main objective of the Scheme is community led sustainable management of ground water resources in water stressed areas of the participating states, by focusing on the demand side measures which are achieved through convergence from various on-going central and state schemes ultimately resulting in arresting/improving the declining ground water levels.

(b) Intensive training programmes, meetings/discussions, various modes of Information, Education and communication (IEC) activities etc. are being conducted at the grass root level for creating awareness about the importance of ground water.

Various equipment like water level sounders, water flow meters, rain gauges, piezometers with Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) etc. have been provided and installed at Gram Panchayat(GP) level for continuous measurement and analysis of ground water parameters.The community members are trained to handle them effectively so as to promote their active involvement.

Water Budgeting and preparation of Water Security Plans (WSPs) based on the specific needs and challenges of their panchayats is undertaken by the community members themselves with the handholding support provided by various NGOs, roped in as District Implementation Partners(DIPs) by the state governments.

Effective conservation of ground water is achieved through implementation of WSPs by means of both demand side interventions like water efficient agricultural practices like micro irrigation, diversification to less water intensive crops etc. as well as supply side interventions like creation of check dams, small water storage structures, recharge trenches/shafts/wells, underground tanks, recharge tube wells etc. all of which are achieved through convergence.

(c) Water level monitoring data for all 1873 GPs under the scheme in Gujarat is being publicly disclosed through display boards / social media/ meetings etc. Further, Water Security Plans (WSPs) have also been submitted for all 1873 GPs with active participation from community. Implementation of various activities proposed under WSPs is being done in the field. An area of around 18902 hectares has been brought under efficient water use practices like micro irrigation & crop diversification. A total of 1771 check dams have been constructed / rejuvenated. Further, 290 recharge tube wells and 1189 percolation ponds and underground storage tanks have been completed.

(d) Atal Bhujal Yojana is a pilot project for participatory ground water management with a fixed duration and outlay. Currently, the project is under impact assessment stage.

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