

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 894

ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

ENHANCING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

894. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) the salient features and policy related to Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY), which is planned to enhance groundwater resources across the country;
- (b) the budget allocation made and amount spent in each State including Punjab during last three years;
- (c) whether there is any plan to encourage and implement proposal for Gram Panchayat level water action plan by forming Panchayat level committees with representation of women in line with local needs like agriculture, irrigation and domestic needs; and
- (d) details of efforts made for extensive use of sensors and information technology to enhance water data for best water use practices of the districts?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme in certain water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2020. The scheme marks a paradigm shift from groundwater development to groundwater management. Salient features of the scheme include extensive training and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities for awareness creation regarding ground water amongst community members, capacity building and hand holding the community for monitoring and sharing of groundwater data, planning and preparation of water budget and Water Security Plan(WSP) at the Gram Panchayat level and execution of WSPs by state governments through convergence. Here it may be added that this is the first scheme to focus on demand side interventions involving community for water efficient activities such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines etc for conservation of groundwater through convergence.

(b) The scheme is not being implemented in Punjab. Since the scheme is implemented on P for R (Program for Results) model where successful completion of water related activities/interventions by the state governments are incentivized and funds are released as per performance. Therefore, there is no pre-decided allocation of funds to states. Funds released to and utilized by the participating states since inception of the scheme till 07.12.2023 is at **Annexure-I**.

(c) Existing Village and Water Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) have been on-boarded to plan and implement groundwater management activities. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, a minimum of 33% women's representation in decision making roles is mandated. Besides, steps are also being taken to integrate Water Security Plans prepared under Atal Bhujal Yojana with the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) for sustainability of activities in the future.

(d) Under Atal Bhujal Yojana it is envisaged to install at least one piezometer with Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) in every Gram Panchayat covered under the scheme. As on date, 5262 piezometers have been installed and out of that 3715 have been provided with DWLRs with telemetry. In addition to data from DWLRs several other water related data like ground water quality, rainfall, ground water draft etc. are being collected and disseminated through a dedicated Management Information System (MIS), Atal Jal mobile application and National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC).

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 894 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 11.12.2023 REGARDING “ENHANCING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY”.

**State wise release of funds till 07.12.2023 under Atal Bhujal Yojana
(Rs. In Crore)**

S.No.	State	Funds released	Funds utilized
1	GUJARAT	344.40	213.70
2	HARYANA	469.45	253.84
3	KARNATAKA	629.54	313.79
4	MADHYA PRADESH	138.62	83.64
5	MAHARASHTRA	358.72	147.09
6	RAJASTHAN	296.78	144.10
7	UTTAR PRADESH	134.60	110.04
Total		2372.10	1,266.18
