

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1522

ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

WATER SCARCITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

1522. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM
SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI

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

- (a) the year-wise and State-wise availability of groundwater in the last five years in the North Eastern Region;
(b) whether Government is aware that water scarcity is gradually becoming one of the most important issues in North East India; and
(c) if so, plan of Government to protect the residents of the North Eastern Region from the effects of scarcity of water?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment of the country is being regularly carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States/UTs including North East India. The state-wise details of annual extractable groundwater resources for the last three assessments are given below:

S. No.	States / Union Territories	Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource in BCM*		
		2023	2022	2020
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4.16	4.07	2.916
2	Assam	20.93	21.4	21.966
3	Manipur	0.466	0.47	0.46
4	Meghalaya	1.51	1.51	1.82
5	Mizoram	0.2	0.2	0.2
6	Nagaland	0.54	0.71	1.95
7	Tripura	1.09	1.064	1.245
8	Sikkim	0.218	0.244	0.864
Total		29.114	29.668	31.421

*Billion Cubic Meters

(b) & (c) The government is cognizant of the importance of ground water resources in the country including in the North-Eastern Region. However, Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. In this direction, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries are given below :-

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of the country including the entire mappable area of 89,596 sq.

kms in the North-Eastern States. The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures.

- CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 5.4 lakh structures in North-Eastern States who are working on devising a suitable action plan for its implementation.
- Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from 2015-16 in the Country. PDMC mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation & better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. PDMC being a central sector scheme, funding to NE states is provided in the ratio of 90:10.
- Department of Land Resources is implementing Watershed Development Component of PMKSY scheme (PMKSY-WDC) under which rejuvenation of springs in the hilly areas is given importance.
- 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. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation including North-Eastern States of Assam and Nagaland. The model bill envisages that in urban areas, rain water available from roof tops of buildings and other open areas can be utilized gainfully for ground water recharge. Rain water harvesting structures feasible in urban areas include recharge pits, trench, existing tube wells or open wells etc.
- The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under MoJS under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 which have pan India applicability.
- National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water, conservation of river, river bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released Model Building Bye-laws, 2016 which recommends Rainwater Harvesting for all types of Building with plot size 100 sq.m or more. So far, 35 States have incorporated the provisions in their respective building bye laws.

In addition to the above, the Government of India has taken several other significant initiatives for the improvement of groundwater situation in the country which can be seen through link below-
<https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/document/steps-taken-by-the-central-government-to-control-water-depletion-and-promote-rain-water-harvesting-conservation/>

Additionally, the various measures implemented by the State Governments for the sustainable management of groundwater in the North-Eastern states are detailed in **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1522 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 05.08.2024 REGARDING “WATER SCARCITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION”.

Initiatives taken by Government of Assam for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Govt. Of Assam adopted the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” campaign, a pivotal initiative of the Government of India with the objective of promoting water conservation and efficient water resource management across the State. By mobilizing governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and local communities, the campaign seeks to establish a culture of water conservation that is crucial for the state’s resilience against water security.
- The Irrigation Department of Assam proposes to take up renovation of traditional water bodies by taking up projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Har Khetko Pani- Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies (PMKSY-HKKP-RRR). Also, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) is also taking up Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Silsako Beel, a large water body within the city of Guwahati under PMKSY-HKKP-RRR.

Initiatives taken by Government of Arunachal Pradesh for sustainable management of Groundwater

- In order to conserve water, Department of Water Resources has been taking multipurpose Water Conservation Projects at various places of the State.
- Various kinds of training programmes are annually organized to make aware the different sections of the people about the need of water conservation, quality aspects etc.

Initiatives taken by Government of Meghalaya for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Government of Meghalaya has taken up number of Water Resource rejuvenation projects like Spring Shed Management, Rain water harvesting scheme, Treatment of Catchment Area etc. To improve retention capacity of the soil.

Initiatives taken by Government of Mizoram for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Mizoram Ground Water (Control & Regulation) Act was passed in 2023 and subsequently Rules under this Act was also passed by Cabinet in 2024 which will ensure systematic management and recharging of ground water and rejuvenation of spring sources.

Initiatives taken by Government of Nagaland for sustainable management of Groundwater

- Directorate of Geology and Mining, under the Government of Nagaland has taken up construction of few rainwater harvesting structures and artificial recharge of groundwater in urban areas on pilot basis.

Initiatives taken by Government of Manipur for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Manipur State Government has started constructing water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures, including Check-Dams/Pick-up Weirs, under the centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
- The Manipur State Government is also planning to construct district-wise artificial recharge structures and to frame district-wise spring rejuvenation schemes under the guidance of the Central Ground Water Board (NER).

Initiatives taken by Government of Tripura for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Govt. of Tripura has planned for contribution of rainwater harvesting structure at multiple locations throughout the State.
- The initiative has been taken to use abandoned bore well for recharge of ground water.

Initiatives taken by Government of Sikkim for sustainable management of Groundwater

- The Government of Sikkim has initiated water conservation projects including rainwater harvesting, rejuvenation of spring sources, and groundwater recharge.
