

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *74

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER IN PUNJAB

*74. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about fast depleting groundwater in various parts of Punjab;
- (b) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government to improve the groundwater situation of Punjab;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the funds provided to Punjab during the last three years for developing water bodies in the State?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *74 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “DEPLETING GROUNDWATER IN PUNJAB”.

(a) to (c) Ground water levels in certain parts of the country including Punjab are declining because of continuous withdrawal necessitated by increased demand for fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization & urbanization etc.

Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, 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 for sustainable development of ground water resources in the country are given below:-

- i. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 in which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2024 is being implemented in the country with special focus on 151 water stressed districts of the country, including 10 such districts in Punjab. JSA is an umbrella campaign under which various ground water recharge and conservation related works are being taken up in convergence with various central and state schemes.
- ii. CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization. Entire mappable area of the country of around 25 lakh sq. km, including 50,369 sq km of Punjab, has been mapped under the scheme and management plans have been shared with the respective State governments for implementation.
- iii. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB and shared with States/UTs providing a broad outline for construction of around 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country with estimated cost. Master plan for the state of Punjab envisages construction of about 11 lakh structures to harness about 1200 MCM of rain-water.
- iv. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme in the country, including Punjab, since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. As per the data available, an area of 15,173 Ha was covered under PDMC in Punjab up to Feb 2024.
- v. Mission AmritSarovar was launched by the Government of India which aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies in each district of the country, including Punjab. As

an outcome nearly 69,000 AmritSarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with 1,450 in Punjab.

- vi. MoJS is promoting conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater and to reduce over-dependence on groundwater in the country under PMKSY-AIBP scheme in collaboration with States/UTs under which surface water based Major and Medium irrigation projects have been taken up.
- vii. Government of India supports construction of water conservation and rain water harvesting in states, including in Punjab, through its schemes like MGNREGS and PMKSY-WDC.
- viii. Department of Agriculture, Punjab is working to diversify the acreage under paddy to other less water consuming crops by extending incentives to farmers.
- ix. Punjab Water Resources Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) has been established under section 3 of Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 Act to ensure conservation, management and regulation of water resources in the State.
- x. Details of several other significant initiatives of the Government of India for improvement of groundwater situation in the country can be seen through the link below-
<https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/document/steps-taken-by-the-central-government-to-control-water-depletion-and-promote-rain-water-harvesting-conservation/>

(d) As per the information received from Govt of Punjab, funds amounting to Rs. 43.31 Crore were received by the state of Punjab from GOI in the past 3 years for development/restoration of water bodies.
