

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1528**

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

**NATIONAL WATER AWARDS**

1528.       SHRI BRIJ LAL                               DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI  
              SHRI BANSHILAL GURJAR       DR. DINESH SHARMA

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

- (a) impact of National Water Awards in development, preservation and efficient management of water as a national asset; and  
(b) whether these awards are creating awareness about importance of water?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b)** National Water Awards (NWAs) focus on the good work and efforts made by individuals and organisations across the country in attaining the government's vision of a '*Jal Samridh Bharat*'. The objective of these awards is to recognize exemplary work done by people in the water sector and to motivate more and more people to work towards water conservation and water management with a greater zeal. The NWAs encourage various stakeholders including the States, Districts, Schools, Civil Societies, Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies, Water User Associations, Institutions, Corporate Sector, etc. to adopt holistic approach towards water resources management in the country. The National Water Awards not only celebrate achievements but also act as a catalyst for nationwide action in water conservation and making efficient water management an integral part of India's development narrative.

Since their inception in 2018, the NWAs have been instrumental in the propagation of the idea of water conservation, preservation and efficient management in general public. It has got reflected in generation of the mass movement through community level participation on a large scale in water conservation campaign of "Jal Shakti Abhiyan" of the Department. Under the Abhiyan, more than 1.05 crore water conservation related works have been completed, out of these nearly 34 lakh works are related to Water conservation and Rainwater Harvesting, 6.5 lakh works on renovation of traditional water bodies, nearly 18.5 lakh related to Reuse and Recharge Structures and nearly 39 lakh works related to watershed development. Besides, NWAs have helped in successful mobilization of communities leading to significant improvements in the groundwater sector. From 2019 onwards, each year, the majority of groundwater monitoring wells (Range 52% to 70%) have shown rising water levels compared

to their average levels from the past decade. This has resulted in significant decline of Over-exploited Assessment units from nearly 17% in the year 2017 to 11% in 2023. While various other factors like rainfall patterns, effective monitoring, support of respective States/UTs, etc have contributed to these achievements in water conservation and management, the contribution of NWAs has been in the form of the awareness generation for successful implementation.

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