

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.716**

ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

**DECREASING GROUNDWATER LEVEL**

716. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) whether any policy has been made to check the rapidly decreasing water level in the country including Punjab, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the information of the works done by Government for protection of groundwater during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any recent research or survey regarding the groundwater situation of other States including Punjab for future preparation, if so, the status of water under the States, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the schemes being implemented by Government to save water in the country?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Realizing the significance of holistic and sustainable development of water resources in the country, Ministry of Water Resources had formulated the National Water Policy (NWP) in 1987 itself which was subsequently reviewed and updated in 2002 and 2012. From the ground water perspective, the NWP, inter-alia, calls for rainwater harvesting and conservation of water, mapping the aquifers of the country, proper regulation of extraction by setting up regulatory authorities and integrated development of surface and ground water. Based on the NWP, this Ministry had drafted a Model 'Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Bill' 2005, providing a regulatory framework to curb indiscriminate extraction of ground water while also making provisions for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge. The Model Bill has been circulated to all States/UTs and so far 21 States/UTs have adopted it, including Punjab.

(b) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) annually conducts Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment of the country in association with States/UTs. In 2023, the Stage of ground water Extraction (SoE) for the whole country is assessed at 59.26%. State-wise details of annual ground water recharge and extraction, as per the 2023 assessment, is provided at **Annexure-I**.

Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. 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 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. As per the information under JSA, a total of around 1.05 crore water conservation and rain water harvesting structures have been constructed/restored in the country since inception of the Abhiyan. State-wise details of all such water conservation works done from March 2021 to the present is provided in **Annexure-II.**
- 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 Amrit Sarovar 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 Amrit Sarovars 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. Based on the advisories of MoJS to States to review their free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers, bring suitable water pricing policy and to work further towards crop rotation/diversification/other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater, Department of Agriculture, Punjab is pursuing hard to diversify the acreage under paddy to other less water consuming crops by extending incentives to farmers.
- ix. Based on the advice of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the 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.

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/>

- x. In addition, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Some of them can be mentioned as ‘Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan’ in Rajasthan, ‘Jalyukt Shivar’ in Maharashtra, ‘Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan’ in Gujarat, ‘Mission Kakatiya’ in Telangana, Neeru Chettu’ in Andhra Pradesh, Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar, ‘Jal Hi Jeevan’ in Haryana, ‘Kudimaramath’ scheme in Tamil Nadu etc.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 716 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 02.12.2024 REGARDING “DECREASING GROUNDWATER LEVEL”.

**STATE-WISE GROUND WATER RESOURCES OF INDIA, 2023 (in bcm)**

S.No.	State	Total Annual Ground Water Recharge	Annual Extractable Ground Water	Current Total Ground Water Extraction	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	27.83	26.45	7.48	28.3
2	Arunachal Pradesh	4.65	4.16	0.02	0.42
3	Assam	27.26	20.93	2.63	12.54
4	Bihar	33.96	30.72	13.75	44.76
5	Chhattisgarh	13.34	12.18	5.75	47.17
6	Delhi	0.38	0.34	0.34	99.13
7	Goa	0.396	0.317	0.068	21.37
8	Gujarat	27.35	25.41	13.13	51.68
9	Haryana	9.55	8.69	11.8	135.74
10	Himachal Pradesh	1.11	1.01	0.35	34.95
11	Jharkhand	6.25	5.73	1.8	31.38
12	Karnataka	18.93	17.08	11.32	66.26
13	Kerala	5.53	5.01	2.73	54.55
14	Madhya Pradesh	35.47	32.85	19.3	58.75
15	Maharashtra	32.76	30.95	16.66	53.83
16	Manipur	0.52	0.47	0.04	7.99
17	Meghalaya	1.83	1.51	0.07	4.58
18	Mizoram	0.22	0.2	0.01	3.70
19	Nagaland	0.6	0.54	0.02	3.76
20	Odisha	17.35	15.94	7.39	46.33
<b>21</b>	<b>Punjab</b>	<b>18.84</b>	<b>16.98</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>163.76</b>
22	Rajasthan	12.45	11.25	16.74	148.77
23	Sikkim	0.243	0.219	0.012	5.54
24	Tamil Nadu	21.59	19.51	14.42	73.91
25	Telangana	23.14	20.92	8.09	38.65
26	Tripura	1.36	1.09	0.11	9.92
27	Uttar Pradesh	71.83	65.57	46.4	70.76
28	Uttarakhand	2.02	1.85	0.95	51.69
29	West Bengal	26.29	23.9	10.71	44.81
30	Andaman And Nicobar	0.618	0.557	0.008	1.37
31	Chandigarh	0.054	0.048	0.037	75.41
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.09	0.08	0.11	131.53
	Daman & Diu	0.035	0.033	0.057	170.70
33	Jammu And Kashmir	4.94	4.46	1.08	24.20
34	Ladakh	0.09	0.08	0.03	37.05
35	Lakshadweep	0.014	0.005	0.003	61.723
36	Puducherry	0.20	0.18	0.13	70.27
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>449.08</b>	<b>407.21</b>	<b>241.34</b>	<b>59.26</b>

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**Water Conservation works done under Jal Shakti Abhiyan**  
**State-wise (Period: from March 2021 to November 2024)**

<b>Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Intervention-Wise Status Report</b>					
<b>*Figures Showing No. of Works Completed as reflected in JSA portal</b>					
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>*Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting</b>	<b>*Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies</b>	<b>*Reuse and Recharge Structures</b>	<b>*Watershed Development</b>
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	244	930	321	121
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	280985	88001	8084	103429
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	1683	171	335	684
4	ASSAM	42255	5838	909	45730
5	BIHAR	164330	24801	72705	78630
6	CHANDIGARH	319	8	0	0
7	CHHATTISGARH	192693	60007	41269	114873
8	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	246	1	0	0
9	DELHI	113	36	0	0
10	GOA	72	88	15	59
11	GUJARAT	42570	25754	42907	93999
12	HARYANA	68459	19266	45582	15352
13	HIMACHAL PRADESH	37353	5527	2918	100586
14	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	39191	9119	90952	104965
15	JHARKHAND	77729	2026	32617	318761
16	KARNATAKA	372998	52157	451540	568627
17	KERALA	91987	41651	77446	270501
18	LADAKH	3292	118	14128	3947
19	LAKSHADWEEP	3	8	0	0
20	MADHYA PRADESH	435577	23996	78303	256838
21	MAHARASHTRA	38120	11167	71965	26385
22	MANIPUR	7335	2329	49	2313
23	MEGHALAYA	9800	1387	407	8214
24	MIZORAM	22772	974	2056	12068
25	NAGALAND	920	317	84	938
26	ODISHA	164237	29594	31713	174795
27	PUDUCHERRY	290	1718	0	21
<b>28</b>	<b>PUNJAB</b>	<b>5149</b>	<b>14503</b>	<b>3310</b>	<b>23963</b>
29	RAJASTHAN	309500	36790	11603	125305
30	SIKKIM	6864	48	983	4114
31	TAMIL NADU	385217	42793	534845	265720
32	TELANGANA	28040	24738	105548	58361
33	TRIPURA	66409	2017	5109	61759
34	UTTAR PRADESH	218274	88394	101681	933967
35	UTTARAKHAND	173388	10968	5427	96456
36	WEST BENGAL	96602	44744	34964	54225
<b>Total</b>		<b>3385016</b>	<b>671984</b>	<b>1869775</b>	<b>3925706</b>

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