

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1196**

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**GROUNDWATER MANAGMENT**

1196. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY

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

- (a) whether Government has taken cognizance that immediate measures need to be taken to manage and replenish groundwater, especially through participatory groundwater management approaches with its combination of water budgeting, aquifer recharging and community involvement;
- (b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) to (c)** Though 'Water' is a state subject and the onus of taking necessary steps for sustainable management of ground water resources of the country lies primarily on the state governments, sensing the pivotal role played by ground water in catering to the agricultural, industrial and domestic requirements of the country, the central government has been proactively taking initiatives for managing, conserving and replenishing ground water. Further, realizing the significance of adopting participatory approach for ground water management, the government has taken several important steps in the direction. As a cornerstone of this approach, the Department of Water Resources has formulated National Water Policy (NWP), 2012 which, *inter alia*, advocates that community based water management should be institutionalized and strengthened including management of aquifers. To fulfill the aspirations echoed by the NWP, the government has been implementing a number of schemes and campaigns, the gist of which is provided below:

- 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 with active community involvement. Currently, JSA 2024 is being implemented in the country with special focus on 151 water stressed districts. 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.

- To further strengthen the community participation, Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been set up under JSA in almost all districts of the country for interacting with local community and disseminating water related knowledge.
- The government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal) in parts of 7 states which has community led sustainable management of ground water resources and demand management as its core theme. Under the Yojana, Gram Panchayat level Water Budgeting and preparation of Water Security Plans (WSPs) is being done with active community participation. Further, various supply and demand side ground water management activities are being implemented under Atal Jal like taking up construction of various rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures like check dams, farm ponds, percolation tanks etc. and adopting water efficient agricultural practices by way of raising community awareness to drive long term behavioural change.
- To further leverage the community potential for enhancing ground water recharge and storage, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB): A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on September 6, 2024, in Surat, Gujarat. The main objective of JSJB is to ensure that every drop of water is conserved through collective efforts, following a whole-of- society and whole-of-government approach.
- In addition to the above, this Ministry is working with various grassroots level NGOs, Self Help Groups, Trusts, Civil society organizations etc. as partners in spreading awareness through communities and scaling up ground water conservation efforts.

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