

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1218**

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY**

1218 #. SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR

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

- (a) whether nearly 45 per cent of the population in the country is facing high to severe water crisis;
- (b) if so, whether Government has detected the causes of water scarcity in the country;
- (c) whether mismanagement of water resources and pollution are the main causes of water scarcity in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether all the schemes being implemented to protect water sources from getting contaminated are failing to prevent contamination of water ; and
- (f) if so, Government's response to this?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) to (f)** The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydrometeorological and geological factors, however, water availability per person is dependent on population of a country. The per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. Based on the study titled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019” conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1486 cubic meter and 1367 cubic meter respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meter is considered as water stressed condition whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of each State/UT is being carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Nodal/Ground Water Department as per the Ground Water Estimation Committee-2015 (GEC-2015) methodology under the guidance of the respective State/UT Level Committees (SLCs) and overall supervision of Central Level Expert Group (CLEG). Based on the stage of ground water extraction, the assessment units are categorized as Safe ( $\leq 70\%$ ), Semi-Critical ( $>70\%$  and  $\leq 90\%$ ), Critical ( $>90\%$  and  $\leq 100\%$ ) and Over-Exploited ( $>100\%$ ). Out of 6746 assessment Units (Blocks/Taluks/Tehsils/Mandals), 4951 (74%) of assessment units are categorized as Safe assessment units, 711 (10.5%) of assessment units are categorized as Semi-Critical, 206 (3%) assessment units are categorized as Critical and 751 (11.13 %) assessment units are categorized as Over Exploited.

Geogenic contamination cannot be undone as the contamination is in the aquifer which is the source of the ground water. However, it can be diluted through measures such as artificial recharge of aquifer. Conjunctive use of surface and ground water will also play an important role in ground water contaminated areas. Various steps have been taken by the Central Government for facilitating ground water quality improvement/ remediation of pollutants in the country, as given below:

- i. Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are made available in public domain through reports as well as through the web site (<http://www.cgwb.gov.in>) for use by various stakeholders. The data is also shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
- ii. Under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) of CGWB, special attention is being given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water. CGWB is successfully constructing Arsenic free wells in arsenic affected areas using the cement sealing technology for tapping contamination free aquifers.
- iii. To address fluoride contamination, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has provided technical assistance and proposed an eco-friendly, sustainable natural recharge model in Mandla, Madhya Pradesh. This model involves constructing wells that tap into the shallow water table aquifer within colluvium, alluvium, and the weathered sections of granitic/basaltic areas, at depths ranging from 18 to 30 meters. The shallow aquifers are considered free of fluoride but are not sustainable during the summer season. These wells should be located near surface water bodies such as check dams, percolation tanks, canal command

areas, river sections, Amrit Sarovar, and Pushkar Talab. This approach will facilitate the natural recharge of the upper layer of the unconfined aquifer.

- iv. Awareness generation programs / workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water are being conducted by CGWB periodically.
- v. Fortnightly results of chemical analysis data are shared with State Government as Ground Water Quality Alerts since 17 June 2024.

National Water Mission has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) since 2019 on an annual basis. NWM is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) 2024, 5th in the series of JSAs, in all the districts (rural as well as urban) of the country. JSA: CTR is a convergence of various Central Government schemes and funds like MGNREGS, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants, State Government schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds etc. This campaign has driven large-scale rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies across urban and rural India.

To further strengthen JSA: CTR, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative has emerged as an innovative initiative for intensified community action for construction of low-cost artificial recharge structures with focus on roof top rainwater harvesting structures, recharging of defunct bore wells and recharge pits made through innovative financing models like philanthropic contribution, Industrial CSR, community partnership models and for finding cost effective local solutions for water conservation. JSJB offers a scalable, sustainable approach to address depleting groundwater levels at a micro level. With artificial recharge structures and advanced monitoring systems, JSJB aims to contribute to groundwater replenishment while encouraging responsible water usage.

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