

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2627

ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

REJUVENATION NATURAL WATER RESOURCES IN THE COUNTY

2627 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU

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

- (a) steps taken to rejuvenate groundwater in the country and rejuvenate natural water resources in the county;
- (b) outcomes achieved in rejuvenation of groundwater and natural resources of water;
- (c) details of new water bodies created through initiatives of the Ministry; and
- (d) details of steps taken by the Central Government to check the falling groundwater levels in the State of Punjab?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Water being a State subject, addressing water related issues, including taking steps for rejuvenation of ground and natural water resources, falls under the mandate of State governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. Some of the important steps taken by the Ministry to check ground water depletion in the country and to rejuvenate the water resources, including in the State of Punjab, are given below. Information on outcomes of these measures is also mentioned along side, while giving details of water bodies created/rejuvenated, wherever applicable.

- i. National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which, 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. The policy has been circulated to states for adoption.
- ii. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country, including Punjab, 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, 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 available information under JSA, in the last four years, around 13.85 lakh are the new ponds and tanks that have been constructed in the country.
- iii. CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization. Under the Scheme, entire mappable area of the country of around 25 lakh sq. km, has been mapped, with 50,368 sq. km in Punjab and management plans have been shared with the respective State governments for implementation.

- iv. 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 to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of water. Master plan for the state of Punjab recommends construction of about 11 lakh structures to harness about 1200 MCM of rain-water.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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 for augmenting ground water recharge and water storage. As an outcome, nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with 1,450 in Punjab.
- vii. The Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies scheme is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)), which focuses on the comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies, including increasing tank storage capacity and promoting groundwater recharge. Under the Scheme, more than 1865 water bodies have been restored/rejuvenated and storage of around 800 MCM revived in the country.
- viii. Based on the advisories of M/o Jal Shakti 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.
- x. To reduce dependence on ground water and to increase the availability of surface water, the government of Punjab has taken up several projects to extend and revive the canal networks. The Punjab Water Resources Management and Development Corporation has also repaired / restored 909 Nos. water courses measuring 700 KM during last 2 years. Further, a total of 73 canals abandoned or non-functional since many years have been restored with a length of 414 kms restored in past 2 years.

As a result of all these cumulative efforts, in Punjab, Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses has reduced from 33.85 BCM in 2020 to 27.66 BCM in 2024 also while the Over-exploited units have declined from 117 to 115 and safe units have improved from 17 to 22 in the year 2024.
