

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *232

ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION THROUGH
ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA**

*232. SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY

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

- (a) the achievements of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) in improving groundwater management in water-stressed areas;
- (b) the number of water security plans that have been prepared and are being implemented by Gram Panchayats under this scheme; and
- (c) their impact on local water conservation efforts, particularly regarding rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge during the monsoon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *232 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION THROUGH ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA”

(a) & (b) Atal Bhujal Yojana is the first scheme of its kind which marks a paradigm shift from groundwater development to community led sustainable groundwater management. The scheme entails community based monitoring and sharing of groundwater data and capacity building through focused Information, Education & Communication (IEC) and training activities. Further, this is the first scheme to focus on demand side interventions also for conservation of groundwater. Gram Panchayat (GP)-wise Water Security Plans (WSPs) are prepared by community members themselves, having details about water budget and proposed demand side interventions such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines etc., and supply side interventions such as check dams, farm ponds, recharge shafts and other artificial recharge / water conservation structures. Measures recommended by WSPs are executed through convergence of ongoing schemes for which the States are suitably incentivized.

Major outcomes achieved/progress made so far under the scheme in the implementation areas are given below:

- i. Public disclosure of groundwater data is being made on regular basis across all 8,203 Atal Jal GPs through physical/electronic means.
- ii. Community-led Water Budgets and WSPs have been prepared by all 8,203 GPs and updated annually.
- iii. More than 1.2 lakh GP-level trainings conducted, alongside 94 state-level, 580 district-level, and 1,283 block-level capacity-building trainings.
- iv. GP-level groundwater monitoring enhanced with Digital Water Level Recorders, water flow meters, rain gauges, water quality testing kits, and construction of piezometers.
- v. Around 81,700 supply-side structures like check dams, ponds, recharge shafts/pits etc. have been constructed/renovated for water conservation and groundwater recharge across 7 states.
- vi. Around 9 lakh hectares have been brought under efficient water-use practices (drip/sprinkler irrigation, mulching, crop diversification, etc.) across 7 states.

(c) Atal Bhujal Yojana has significantly boosted local water conservation efforts by securing active involvement of communities at every stage viz. data collection, analysis and planning. The scheme embodies a true bottoms up approach as the communities themselves plan the water conservation measures required for their villages through preparation of WSPs. Furthermore, the proposals mooted by such locally prepared and gram sabha approved WSPs, are taken up for implementation by various line departments of the states, thus ensuring that local water conservation needs are duly addressed. Moreover, due importance is given to various local water conservation and rainwater harvesting structures/ practices, as they represent traditional knowledge also best suited for local terrain and climatic conditions. The practice of constructing traditional structures like Gokatte, Bawdi, Johad, Tanka, Kalyani, Diggi, etc. has been revived and further strengthened.

In terms of overall impact, out of the 229 Blocks in which the Scheme is being implemented, 83 Blocks have shown rise in ground water levels, in the assessment conducted so far. Further, as on 31st March 2025, an estimated quantum of 3,370 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of water has been recharged/saved on account of various activities/works taken up under the Scheme.
