GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2809

ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER AT ALARMING RATE

2809. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the alarming rate of groundwater depletion in major agrarian states like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan;

(b) latest data on groundwater levels in these States over the last five years, district-wise;

(c) reasons for the continued over-extraction of groundwater despite existing regulatory frameworks;

(d) the status and impact assessment of the Atal Bhujal Yojana in curbing unsustainable groundwater use; and

(e) whether Central Government proposes to implement any urgent corrective measures/ policy interventions in coordination with State Governments to ensure long-term groundwater sustainability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country including Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, four times in every year, through its network of monitoring wells. Based on such monitoring data, long term fluctuations in ground water level is assessed, by comparing the water level data of post monsoon (November), 2024 with the decadal mean of November month water levels from 2014-2023, for Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan**.** Such analysis indicates that percentage of wells showing rise in ground water levels in 2024, vis'-a-vis' the decadal mean, for Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are 28.1%, 46.7% and 61.9% respectively. Further details are provided at **Annexure.**

Details of district-wise ground water level data as measured by CGWB during the last 5 years (2020-2024) in respect of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan can be accessed with the following link: https://www.jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/08/6fe7fb8f74e94fc078d789df3fe05ed8.pdf

(c) Water is a state subject and regulation of ground water extraction is the responsibility of the State governments. However, the Central government on its part has established the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the M/o Jal Shakti, for the purpose of regulation of ground water extraction, in the states, which are yet to take up their own regulation.

Large-scale cultivation of water intensive crops coupled with inefficient irrigation methods, inadequate availability/development of surface water sources, and lack of community awareness/ownership regarding sustainable management of ground water resources etc. are some of the probable reasons for continued over-dependence on ground water, in some parts of the country.

(d) 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 is being implemented on a pilot basis in 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 229 Blocks across 7 states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Scientific measurement of ground water data and community led preparation of Water Security Plans (WSPs) are the foundational activities of Atal Bhujal Yojana and the same have been completed and being updated annually in all 8,203 GPs.

The scheme has ensured construction of around 81,700 water conservation and groundwater recharge structures by the participating states and around 9 lakh hectares have been brought under efficient water-use practices (drip/sprinkler irrigation, mulching, crop diversification, etc.).

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 as per the assessment conducted so far.

Further, 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.

(e) 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.

Formulation of National Water Policy, 2012, advocating comprehensive mapping of aquifers, scientific and data driven management of water resources and setting up robust regulatory frameworks; Implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), the annual mission mode umbrella campaign for taking up various ground water recharge and conservation related works through convergence; Aquifer mapping of the whole country by CGWB under its NAQUIM programme and bringing out district-wise aquifer management plans for scientific ground water governance; Preparation of Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 by CGWB, providing area specific recharge and rain water harvesting solutions; Preparation and circulation of Model 'Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Bill' for adoption by States/UTs; Implementation of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme by Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, focusing on micro irrigation and better on-farm water management practices etc. are some of the steps taken by the government to ensure long term ground water sustainability.

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ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2809 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 18.08.2025 REGARDING "DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER AT ALARMING RATE".

State-wise Decadal Water Level Fluctuation (in meters) with Mean (Post-Monsoon 2014 to 2023) and Post-Monsoon 2024 (Unconfined Aquifer)

S. N.	State/ UT Name	No of well analysed	No. of wells in different fluctuation ranges (in meters)												Total No. of wells			
			Rise						Fall									
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	Rise	%	Fall	%
1	Haryana	169	62	36.7	12	7.1	5	3.0	54	32.0	26	15.4	10	5.9	79	46.7	90	53.3
2	Punjab*	185	40	21.6	8	4.3	4	2.2	74	40.0	24	13.0	34	18.4	52	28.1	132	71.4
3	Rajasthan*	818	241	29.5	124	15.2	141	17.2	145	17.7	70	8.6	96	11.7	506	61.9	311	38.0
* 01 sites show no rise or fall in water level.																		

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