GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.890

ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

GROUNDWATER DEPLETION

890. SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of groundwater availability across the country as of 2025, including State-wise details, particularly for the State of Tamil Nadu and other southern States where several blocks are reported to be in the semi-critical or critical category;

(b) whether Government has taken specific measures to address over-extraction and declining groundwater levels in southern States, including the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being implemented under Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission and aquifer recharge programmes to reduce dependence on groundwater and improve long-term sustainability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being annually assessed, jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per the 2025 assessment, the total Annual Ground Water Recharge in the country is 448.52 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources is estimated as 407.75 BCM. Further, total Annual Ground Water Extraction of the entire country for the year 2025 has been assessed as 247.22 BCM. Based on this, the Stage of Ground Water Extraction (SoE), which is a measure of Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses (irrigation, industrial and domestic uses) over Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is worked out to be 60.63% for the country as a whole**.** The state-wise Ground Water Resources of India (2025) including for Tamil Nadu and other Southern States is presented in **Annexure-I.**

Further, the state-wise details of categorization of Assessment Units (AUs) into Over-exploited, Critical, Semi-critical, Safe and Saline units, based on their stage of ground water extraction is provided in **Annexure- II** for the southern states.

The perusal of data indicates that 73.11% of AUs in the Southern States, which are Blocks, Talukas, Mandals etc., fall in the Safe category, 12.64% in Semi-critical, 2.90% in Critical and 9.15% are in Over-exploited category. Further, 2.20% AUs are classified as Saline.

(b) & c) The government is committed to ensure sustainable management and development of water and groundwater resources of the country by promoting judicious use and robust conservation efforts.

However, it may be appreciated that 'Water' being a State subject, sustainable development and management of water and groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, on its part, facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. The major steps taken by the government in this direction, for regulating over-extraction, reducing dependence on ground water and ensuring their long term sustainability through aquifer recharge programmes, with a focus on Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical (OCS) areas of the country, are provided below:

i. Efforts of the Central government for augmenting the water/groundwater resources of the country, are mainly channeled through the flagship campaign of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). JSA is a time bound and mission mode programme being conducted annually since 2019 by the M/o Jal Shakti, covering both rural and urban areas, wherein all the efforts and funds under various schemes and projects are converged to deliver water harvesting and artificial recharge works on the ground.

   Currently, JSA 2025 is underway in the country with special focus on over-exploited and critical districts. As per the available information, under JSA, completion of around 1.21 crore water conservation and artificial recharge works has been coordinated through convergence in the country in the last 4 years, with 13.93 lakh structures in Tamil Nadu, 17.07 lakh in Karnataka, 6.44 lakh in Kerala, 5.73 lakh in Andhra Pradesh and 2.73 lakh in Telangana, which has played a key role in enhancing the sustainability of ground water resources.

ii. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB): A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with a vision to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. By promoting community ownership and responsibility, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.

iii. M/o Jal Shakti has successfully demonstrated the efficacy of community led participatory ground water management through Atal Bhujal Yojana, which was implemented in 80 water stressed districts in 7 States viz. Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Construction of various rain water harvesting and recharge structures like check dams, ponds, shafts etc. as well as promotion of micro irrigation was taken up under the scheme with an objective to augment the ground water resources and to reduce the strain on them through efficient water management practices.

iv. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, being implemented in the by this Ministry in partnership with states, marks an important milestone for providing contamination free

potable tap water to every rural household of the country in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis. Further, JJM marks a paradigm shift in rural water supply by adopting a demand-driven, community-led approach and integrating source sustainability measures such as rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and grey water management as mandatory components.

v. M/o Jal Shakti is promoting conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater and to reduce over-dependence on groundwater, surface water based Major and Medium irrigation projects have been taken up in the country under PMKSY-AIBP scheme in collaboration with States/UTs.

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. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country, with 2,487 in Tamil Nadu, 4,056 in Karnataka, 865 in Kerala, 2,154 in Andhra Pradesh and 1,872 in Telangana leading to enhanced water storage and ground water recharge.

vii. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop Scheme since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation leading to conservation of ground water.

viii. After the successful completion of NAQUIM 1.0, which mapped country's aquifers and provided a macro-level understanding of our nation's groundwater resources, the Central Ground Water Board has now embarked upon NAQUIM 2.0, focusing on water stressed and quality affected pockets. Under NAQUIM 2.0 state-of-the-art technologies are harnessed, for generating highly detailed, scientific data which serve as an important tool for making informed decisions for sustainable groundwater management.

ix. CGWB has also prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020, for the entire country providing a broad outline for construction of around 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 BCM (Billion cubic meter). The Masterplan has been shared with State/UT administrations for taking up suitable field interventions.

x. In addition to the above, State government schemes like , 'Kudimaramath' in Tamil Nadu, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'NeeruChettu' in Andhra Pradesh etc. have made notable contributions for sustainable management of ground water resources in these states.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 890 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 08.12.2025 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER DEPLETION".

STATE-WISE GROUND WATER RESOURCES OF INDIA, 2025

S.No.	States /Union Territories	Total Annual Ground Water Recharge (in BCM)	Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource (in BCM)	Annual GW Extraction for all uses (in BCM)	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)
1	Andhra Pradesh	26.34	25.02	7.88	31.51
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3.69	3.29	0.01	0.41
3	Assam	26.36	20.29	2.93	14.45
4	Bihar	34.51	31.32	14.47	46.20
5	Chhattisgarh	14.30	13.07	6.30	48.18
6	Goa	0.38	0.31	0.07	23.30
7	Gujarat	27.58	25.61	14.33	55.95
8	Haryana	10.27	9.30	12.72	136.75
9	Himachal Pradesh	1.12	1.01	0.39	38.50
10	Jharkhand	6.15	5.63	1.85	32.89
11	Karnataka	19.27	17.41	11.58	66.49
12	Kerala	5.45	4.93	2.46	49.95
13	Madhya Pradesh	36.07	34.15	20.26	59.32
14	Maharashtra	33.89	31.99	16.57	51.79
15	Manipur	0.44	0.40	0.04	9.09
16	Meghalaya	1.84	1.54	0.08	5.24
17	Mizoram	0.21	0.19	0.01	4.03
18	Nagaland	0.55	0.50	0.02	4.72
19	Odisha	17.44	16.02	7.81	48.75
20	Punjab	18.60	16.80	26.27	156.36
21	Rajasthan	12.87	11.62	17.10	147.11
22	Sikkim	0.24	0.22	0.01	5.87
23	Tamil Nadu	22.61	20.46	15.04	73.50
24	Telangana	21.93	19.84	9.26	46.69
25	Tripura	1.53	1.24	0.12	10.06
26	Uttar Pradesh	73.39	66.97	46.89	70.00
27	Uttarakhand	2.13	1.95	1.05	53.92
28	West Bengal	25.85	23.50	10.62	45.19
29	Andaman & Nicobar	0.38	0.35	0.01	2.27
30	Chandigarh	0.05	0.05	0.03	67.00
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	0.13	0.12	0.05	40.45
32	Delhi	0.38	0.35	0.32	92.10
33	Jammu &Kashmir	2.30	2.07	0.51	24.73
34	Ladakh	0.07	0.06	0.02	30.93
35	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.01	0.00	57.79
36	Puducherry	0.19	0.17	0.13	75.98
	Grand Total	**448.52**	**407.75**	**247.22**	**60.63**
N. B. Minor discrepancies in numbers may arise due to rounding off at various levels.					

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 890 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 08.12.2025 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER DEPLETION".

State/UT wise breakup of the number of assessment units categorized under Over-exploited, critical and Semi-critical (OCS), Safe and Saline categories for Southern States (As on 2025)

CATEGORIZATION OF BLOCKS/ MANDALS/ TALUKAS IN SOUTHERN STATES (2025)												
S.No.	**State/Union Territories**	**Total No. of Assessed Units**	**Safe**		**Semi-Critical**		**Critical**		**Over-Exploited**		**Saline**	
	States		**Nos.**	**%**	**Nos.**	**%**	**Nos.**	**%**	**Nos.**	**%**	**Nos.**	**%**
1	**Andhra Pradesh**	679	601	88.5	24	3.5	3	0.4	12	1.8	39	5.74
2	**Karnataka**	237	145	61.18	36	15.19	11	4.64	45	18.99		
3	**Kerala**	152	123	80.92	27	17.76	2	1.32				
4	**Tamil Nadu**	313	121	38.66	61	19.49	23	7.35	103	32.91	5	1.60
5	**Telangana**	620	473	76.29	105	16.94	19	3.06	23	3.71		
	Grand Total	**2001**	**1463**	**73.11**	**253**	**12.64**	**58**	**2.90**	**183**	**9.15**	**45**	**2.20**
Note- Assessment Units consist of the following in different states :												
Blocks--Kerala												
Taluks--- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu												
Mandals---Andhra Pradesh, Telangana												

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