

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

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*18**

ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

**STATUS OF WATER QUALITY AND WATER POLLUTION**

18 #. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) the position at which India stands in the Global Water Quality ranking;
- (b) whether it is a fact that approximately 70 per cent of groundwater in the country has become polluted;
- (c) the percentage of groundwater which has become polluted in different States of the country, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of steps taken by Government so far to prevent a day-zero situation regarding water?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*18 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “STATUS OF WATER QUALITY AND WATER POLLUTION”**

(a) There is no universally accepted global water quality ranking of countries.

(b) No. Ground water quality analysis varies with the sample size, time and area of sampling etc. The data on ground water quality generated by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments from time to time indicates that the ground water in the country remains largely potable with localized occurrences of contaminants in isolated pockets.

(c) There can be no fixed percentage of ground water that can be termed as polluted at any given point of time for any State. Sampling and testing are done at certain locations every year by CGWB and State Governments as required.

(d) ‘Water’ being a State subject, sustainable development and management of water and groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, 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 in this direction 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 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.
- ii. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: 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. 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 through convergence and by use of incentive funds under the scheme. As a result, around

83,000 structures were constructed and more than 9 lakh hectares of land was brought under efficient irrigation practices in the scheme implementation area.

- iv. After the successful completion of National Aquifer Mapping & Management Programme (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.
- v. 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 leading to enhanced water storage and ground water recharge.
- vi. 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.
- vii. With an objective to ensure sustainability of water resources in urban areas, M/o Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GoI, has been implementing AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 Schemes, which are major initiatives to improve the quality of life in cities, enabling them to become 'self-reliant' and 'water secure'. Rejuvenation of urban water bodies and supplying safe drinking water are important thrust areas under the scheme.
- viii. Additionally, the government is promoting conjunctive use of Ground water and Surface water and further supporting several dam/water body desiltation programmes, canal development and extension projects, inter-linking of rivers etc. to augment the supply and coverage of surface water to cater to various agricultural, industrial and domestic needs of the country.

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