

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

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *248

ANSWERED ON 16.03.2026

STATUS OF GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN BELAGAVI DISTRICT

248. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:

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

- (a) the status of the groundwater levels in the Belagavi district and the categorization of over-exploited blocks;
- (b) the details of the implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana in the water-stressed areas of the district;
- (c) the measures taken to promote artificial recharge structures and check dams;
- (d) the status of the regulation of groundwater extraction by the industries; and
- (e) the plan of Government to promote micro-irrigation to conserve groundwater in the sugarcane belt?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *248 TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2026 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING “STATUS OF GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN BELAGAVI DISTRICT”

(a) Ground water level monitoring is conducted on a regular basis by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry and respective State Governments. Data on ground water levels recorded by CGWB, for the district of Belagavi, Karnataka during its post-monsoon monitoring in November/December, 2025 indicates that 67 out of 69 wells monitored in the district (about 97%) have recorded water levels in the range of 0- 10 metres below ground level (mbgl). Further, in order to assess the long term fluctuation in ground water level, the water level data collected by CGWB for Belagavi District during Post Monsoon (2025) has been compared with the decadal mean of Post Monsoon water levels (2015-2024). This analysis indicates that about 81% of the wells monitored have registered rise in ground water levels during November 2025 as compared to the mean of previous 10 years.

Assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country is being carried out annually since 2022 by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in coordination with the State Governments. As per the latest assessment of 2025, out of 15 Assessment Units (Taluks) in Belagavi, only 2 Taluks, viz. Bailhongal and Savadatti are categorized as 'Over-Exploited'. Further, the percentage of 'Safe' units in Belagavi has increased from 40% in 2017 to 53.3% in 2025 and that of 'Over-Exploited' units has decreased from 30% to 13.3%.

(b) Atal Bhujal Yojana was a pilot project with fixed duration and outlay, implemented across 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

In Belagavi district, the scheme covered 45 Gram Panchayats (GPs) located in Athani and Ramadurga Taluks. Under the scheme, community led preparation of Water Budgets (WBs) and Water Security Plans (WSPs) were completed and annually updated for all covered GPs. Further, construction/rejuvenation of 1,536 water harvesting and artificial recharge structures were done and an area of around 7,700 hectares was brought under efficient irrigation practices. As a result, 31 out of 45 GPs have shown improvement in ground water levels during periodic assessments conducted from 2023 to 2025.

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, the responsibility of addressing the ground water related issues lies primarily with the concerned 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. In this direction, several important steps have been taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for improvement of ground water resources of the country, including in Belagavi district of Karnataka. Gist of various such initiatives is given below:-

- i. Efforts of the Government for augmenting the water/groundwater resources of the country are mainly channeled through the flagship campaign of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), an annual mission mode programme for taking up water harvesting and artificial recharge activities. As per the available information, under JSA, more than 2 Cr. water conservation and artificial recharge

works have been taken up through convergence in the country so far, with around 1.1 lakh structures (including 1676 check dams) in Belagavi district, which have played a key role in enhancing the sustainability of ground water resources.

- ii. To further strengthen the momentum of JSA, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2024 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. Thus far, more than 45 lakh rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures have been constructed across the country under this initiative, with around 4,465 such structures in Belagavi district.
- iii. Mission Amrit Sarovar was also launched by the Government of India, which aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies in each district of the country, for the purpose of increasing water storage and boosting ground water recharge. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country, with 228 in Belagavi district.
- iv. Central Ground Water Board under its National Aquifer Mapping & Management (NAQUIM) Programme, has covered the entire mappable area of 25 lakh sq. kms of the country and district level aquifer maps along with appropriate aquifer management plans, containing recommendations for various recharge structures, have been shared with all State and District administrations, including Belagavi, for taking further field implementation.
- v. CGWB has also prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 for the entire country, including Belagavi district and shared with States/UTs, for serving as a technical guidebook for construction of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures.

(d) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is involved in regulation of ground water extraction at the central level. That apart, 17 States/UTs are having their own regulatory mechanism/bodies, including Karnataka. CGWA issues No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water extraction to industries, mines, infrastructure projects etc. in accordance with its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020. However, in the State of Karnataka, regulation of ground water extraction is being done by the State government as per the provisions of its Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Act, 2011, which covers industrial and commercial users.

(e) In addition to Atal Bhujal Yojana mentioned above, the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (M/o A&FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme in the country since 2015-16 including the State of Karnataka. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation for various crops including sugarcane. Under the scheme, subsidy is provided to the individual farmers for installation of Micro Irrigation Systems.

Further, as informed by the Government of Karnataka, the State has designed a special programme for sustainable crop management covering 3,000 hectares of sugarcane in five districts, including Belagavi. Under this project, the Agriculture Department of Karnataka is implementing the Micro Irrigation Programme in 1,000 hectares in Belagavi district.
