

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1055

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

GROUNDWATER RESERVES IN TAMIL NADU

1055 SHRI R. DHARMAR:

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

- (a) the current status of groundwater reserves in the State of Tamil Nadu, district-wise, as per the latest assessment;
- (b) whether there has been a decline in groundwater levels in the State during the last five years and the regions most affected by groundwater depletion;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to replenish groundwater, including rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge, watershed management and regulation of borewells, in the State of Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) the funds allocated, released and utilised for groundwater conservation projects in the State during the last five years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being annually assessed for the whole country, including the state of Tamil Nadu, jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the respective State Nodal departments. As per the latest assessment of 2025, in the State of Tamil Nadu, the total Annual Ground Water Recharge is 22.61 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 20.46 BCM. The Total Annual Ground Water Extraction in the state has been estimated as 15.04 BCM. Accordingly, the Stage of Ground Water Extraction (SoE), which is a measure of Annual Ground Water Extraction for all purposes over Annual Extractable Ground Water is arrived at 73.50 % for the State as a whole. The district-wise Ground Water Resources for State of Tamil Nadu (2025) is presented in **Annexure-I**.

(b) In order to understand the fluctuation in ground water levels over the years in Tamil Nadu, comparative analysis of post-monsoon 2025 groundwater levels with the mean post-monsoon groundwater levels of 2020–2024 has been carried out and is presented in **Annexure-II**. The analysis indicates that about 60% of the analysed wells have registered a rise in groundwater levels. However, in the districts of Dindigul, Kanniakumari, Namakkal, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga, Thoothukkudi and Tiruppur, more than 50% of the analysed wells have shown depletion in groundwater levels.

(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, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries for ground water conservation and replenishment through rain water harvesting, artificial recharge and regulation of ground water extraction in the country, including Tamil Nadu, are given 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. As per the data available on JSA dashboard, completion of around 14.22 lakh water conservation works, including rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge and watershed management activities, has been coordinated through convergence in Tamil Nadu since 2021 under JSA.
- ii. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) has been launched to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. So far, more than 1.38 lakh such structures have been constructed/renovated in Tamil Nadu under the campaign.
- iii. After the successful completion of NAQUIM 1.0, which mapped the aquifers of the country for the entire mappable area of 25 lakh sq. kms, including 1.05 lakh sq km of Tamil Nadu, CGWB has now embarked upon NAQUIM 2.0, focusing on water stressed and quality affected pockets, with a view to provide aquifer data of high granularity along with appropriate management plans.
- iv. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Government of India, which aimed at developing and rejuvenating water bodies in each district of the country, including Tamil Nadu. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country, with 2,488 in Tamil Nadu.
- v. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB for the entire country, including Tamil Nadu, and shared with States/UTs, for serving as a technical guidebook for construction of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures.
- vi. On the ground water regulation front, 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, including Tamil Nadu, are having their own regulatory

mechanism/bodies. CGWA issues No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water extraction for various purposes in accordance with its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 which have pan India applicability. CGWA has been taking stringent measures including imposition of heavy penalties and Environmental Compensation (EC) charges for illegal extraction of ground water and even resorting to sealing of bore wells in fitting cases.

- vii. In addition to the above, as per the information received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the Directorate of Town Panchayats is actively engaged in construction of rooftop rainwater harvesting structures on all government, commercial and residential buildings falling within the jurisdiction of around 90 town panchayats in Tamil Nadu and so far more than 19 lakh buildings have been provided with such structures. Further, under various state government projects like Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TNIAMP), Mission on Sustainable Dryland Agriculture (MSDA), Chief Minister's Dryland Development Mission (CMDDM) etc. large-scale construction of farm ponds and check dams has been taken up across the state.

(d) Ground water conservation works in the country, including in Tamil Nadu are taken up through convergence with various Central schemes like MGNREGS, PMKSY-WDC etc. and respective State government schemes. As per the information available on JSA dashboard, an expenditure of around 15,531 cr has been incurred on construction/renovation of artificial recharge, rainwater harvesting, watershed development etc. works in Tamil Nadu, from 2021 till date, through convergence with MGNREGS.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1055 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.02.2026 REGARDING “GROUNDWATER RESERVES IN TAMIL NADU”.

District Wise Ground Water Resources of Tamil Nadu 2025

S. No.	Name of District	Total Annual Ground Water Recharge	Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource	Total Annual Ground Water Extraction	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)
1	Ariyalur	41042.19	37340.90	18106.13	48.49
2	Chengalpattu	69092.36	62841.99	40364.83	64.23
3	Chennai	9796.45	8917.30	10854.47	121.72
4	Coimbatore	62299.85	56285.05	51695.65	91.85
5	Cuddalore	117797.30	106943.73	67686.36	63.29
6	Dharmapuri	52997.05	47941.74	42963.53	89.62
7	Dindigul	59520.62	53634.62	62994.42	117.45
8	Erode	91114.03	82174.70	63104.41	76.79
9	Kallakurichchi	64714.90	59018.77	47833.39	81.05
10	Kancheepuram	59146.68	53542.69	26188.01	48.91
11	Kanniyakumari	35905.07	32314.57	4448.77	13.77
12	Karur	32348.59	29198.92	30110.06	103.12
13	Krishnagiri	55820.64	50471.35	46623.35	92.38
14	Madurai	75949.60	70769.07	49878.95	70.48
15	Mayiladuthurai	45464.35	40917.94	47718.53	116.62
16	Nagapattinam (saline)	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Namakkal	58167.40	52433.66	60747.37	115.86
18	Perambalur	28883.80	25995.40	27517.06	105.85
19	Pudukkottai	106894.14	96204.70	47440.95	49.31
20	Ramanathapuram	60945.01	54850.47	6030.07	10.99
21	Ranipet	32956.13	30121.80	25462.52	84.53
22	Salem	52746.78	47530.82	70120.40	147.53
23	Sivagangai	78005.55	70428.15	18338.08	26.04
24	Tenkasi	59542.48	53665.79	40910.30	76.23
25	Thanjavur	115977.07	104570.81	105452.67	100.84
26	The Nilgiris	7962.18	7165.96	916.18	12.79
27	Theni	29973.89	26976.50	22560.19	83.63
28	Thiruvarur	53321.84	47989.63	25797.83	53.76
29	Thoothukudi	85873.57	77503.52	21384.64	27.59
30	Tiruchirappalli	70901.83	64242.73	54416.71	84.70
31	Tirunelveli	87693.14	79000.72	32380.76	40.99
32	Tirupathur	10778.77	9712.90	13877.23	142.87
33	Tiruppur	70233.78	63407.92	54494.93	85.94
34	Tiruvallur	82070.25	75245.28	41675.16	55.39
35	Tiruvannamalai	112302.91	101557.73	87283.91	85.95
36	Vellore	20193.72	18174.31	22127.51	121.75
37	Villupuram	104448.92	94473.26	80616.18	85.33
38	Virudhunagar	57903.23	52189.79	33569.66	64.32
	Total(Ham)	2260786.07	2045755.19	1503691.17	73.50
	Total(Bcm)	22.61	20.46	15.04	73.50

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1055 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.02.2026 REGARDING “GROUNDWATER RESERVES IN TAMIL NADU”.

Comparative Analysis of post-monsoon 2025 groundwater levels with the mean post-monsoon groundwater levels of Years 2020–2024 (for Unconfined Aquifers) for Tamil Nadu

SNo	District	No of Wells Analysed	No. & % of wells showing change in water level												Total No. of wells					
			Rise						Fall						Rise		Fall		No Change	
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Ariyalur	10	6	60.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	60.0%	4	40.0%	0	0.0%
2	Chengalpattu	25	13	52.0%	3	12.0%	0	0.0%	8	32.0%	1	4.0%	0	0.0%	16	64.0%	9	36.0%	0	0.0%
3	Chennai	19	9	47.4%	1	5.3%	0	0.0%	7	36.8%	2	10.5%	0	0.0%	10	52.6%	9	47.4%	0	0.0%
4	Coimbatore	28	14	50.0%	2	7.1%	5	17.9%	7	25.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	21	75.0%	7	25.0%	0	0.0%
5	Cuddalore	28	18	64.3%	2	7.1%	0	0.0%	7	25.0%	1	3.6%	0	0.0%	20	71.4%	8	28.6%	0	0.0%
6	Dharmapuri	25	9	36.0%	4	16.0%	6	24.0%	6	24.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	76.0%	6	24.0%	0	0.0%
7	Dindigul	27	11	40.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	25.9%	6	22.2%	3	11.1%	11	40.7%	16	59.3%	0	0.0%
8	Erode	57	24	42.1%	3	5.3%	1	1.8%	22	38.6%	5	8.8%	1	1.8%	28	49.1%	28	49.1%	1	1.8%
9	Kallakurichi	24	12	50.0%	3	12.5%	1	4.2%	7	29.2%	0	0.0%	1	4.2%	16	66.7%	8	33.3%	0	0.0%
10	Kancheepuram	11	6	54.5%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	3	27.3%	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	7	63.6%	4	36.4%	0	0.0%
11	Kanniya kumari	13	3	23.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	69.2%	1	7.7%	0	0.0%	3	23.1%	10	76.9%	0	0.0%
12	Karur	13	8	61.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	15.4%	2	15.4%	0	0.0%	8	61.5%	4	30.8%	1	7.7%
13	Krishnagiri	14	8	57.1%	2	14.3%	0	0.0%	3	21.4%	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	10	71.4%	4	28.6%	0	0.0%
14	Madurai	21	7	33.3%	2	9.5%	3	14.3%	6	28.6%	3	14.3%	0	0.0%	12	57.1%	9	42.9%	0	0.0%
15	Mayiladuthurai	4	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
16	Nagapattinam	11	11	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	11	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

17	Namakkal	46	10	21.7%	3	6.5%	0	0.0%	24	52.2%	6	13.0%	3	6.5%	13	28.3%	33	71.7%	0	0.0%
18	Perambalur	15	8	53.3%	0	0.0%	1	6.7%	5	33.3%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	9	60.0%	6	40.0%	0	0.0%
19	Pudukkottai	23	8	34.8%	1	4.3%	0	0.0%	10	43.5%	4	17.4%	0	0.0%	9	39.1%	14	60.9%	0	0.0%
20	Ramanathapuram	24	13	54.2%	2	8.3%	0	0.0%	9	37.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	15	62.5%	9	37.5%	0	0.0%
21	Ranipet	6	2	33.3%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	66.7%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%
22	Salem	39	18	46.2%	3	7.7%	3	7.7%	13	33.3%	1	2.6%	1	2.6%	24	61.5%	15	38.5%	0	0.0%
23	Sivaganga	9	4	44.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	33.3%	2	22.2%	0	0.0%	4	44.4%	5	55.6%	0	0.0%
24	Tenkasi	10	6	60.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	8	80.0%	2	20.0%	0	0.0%
25	Thanjavur	15	10	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	10	66.7%	5	33.3%	0	0.0%
26	The Nilgiris	9	6	66.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	66.7%	3	33.3%	0	0.0%
27	Theni	15	5	33.3%	3	20.0%	1	6.7%	5	33.3%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	9	60.0%	6	40.0%	0	0.0%
28	Thiruvallur	31	21	67.7%	4	12.9%	0	0.0%	4	12.9%	1	3.2%	1	3.2%	25	80.6%	6	19.4%	0	0.0%
29	Thiruvarur	6	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
30	Thoothukkudi	26	8	30.8%	2	7.7%	1	3.8%	12	46.2%	2	7.7%	0	0.0%	11	42.3%	14	53.8%	1	3.8%
31	Tiruchirappalli	43	18	41.9%	5	11.6%	1	2.3%	15	34.9%	4	9.3%	0	0.0%	24	55.8%	19	44.2%	0	0.0%
32	Tirunelveli	17	11	64.7%	1	5.9%	1	5.9%	3	17.6%	1	5.9%	0	0.0%	13	76.5%	4	23.5%	0	0.0%
33	Tirupathur	18	11	61.1%	6	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%	17	94.4%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%
34	Tiruppur	53	15	28.3%	2	3.8%	1	1.9%	24	45.3%	5	9.4%	6	11.3%	18	34.0%	35	66.0%	0	0.0%
35	Tiruvannamalai	22	8	36.4%	6	27.3%	3	13.6%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	3	13.6%	17	77.3%	5	22.7%	0	0.0%
36	Vellore	9	1	11.1%	5	55.6%	2	22.2%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8	88.9%	1	11.1%	0	0.0%
37	Viluppuram	20	15	75.0%	3	15.0%	1	5.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	19	95.0%	1	5.0%	0	0.0%
38	Virudhunagar	14	6	42.9%	2	14.3%	1	7.1%	4	28.6%	0	0.0%	1	7.1%	9	64.3%	5	35.7%	0	0.0%
	Total	800	373	46.6%	75	9.4%	32	4.0%	244	30.5%	51	6.4%	22	2.8%	480	60.0%	317	39.6%	3	0.4%
