

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

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1847

ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

USE OF GROUNDWATER

1847 Dr. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) the number of blocks identified as over-exploited, critical and semi-critical in terms of groundwater extraction during the last five years, State-wise;
- (b) the impact of Jal Shakti Abhiyan on groundwater recharge; and
- (c) whether any independent assessment of long-term sustainability has been conducted?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) 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. Under this exercise, categorization of various Assessment Units (AUs) of the country (which are generally Blocks/Tehsils/Taluks/Mandals etc.) into 'Over-Exploited', 'Critical', 'Semi-critical' and 'Safe' units is done based on their Stage of Ground water Extraction (SoE).

In the last five years, assessment reports have been published in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. The year-wise and State/UT-wise details of Assessment Units categorized as Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical are provided at:

<https://cgwb.gov.in/cgwbpm/public/uploads/documents/1772719063999588025file.pdf>

(b) The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019 as a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign in 256 water-stressed districts of the country. Subsequently, the Abhiyan has been scaled up to cover all districts, blocks and municipalities across the country, wherein all the efforts and funds under various schemes and projects are converged to deliver water conservation and artificial recharge works on the ground.

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, which has played a key role in enhancing the sustainability of ground water resources.

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. Thus far, more than 40 lakh rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures have been constructed across the country under this initiative.

Further, the impact of such measures is also duly reflected in the steadily improving ground water resource scenario of the country. The analysis of groundwater resource assessments for 2017 and 2025 indicates a positive trend in recharge attributable to Water Conservation Structures (WCS) including tanks and ponds etc. During this period, recharge from tanks, ponds and WCS have increased from 13.98 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) to 26.91 BCM, vindicating the consistent efforts of the government in boosting the ground water potential of the country through sustained conservation and recharge measures.

(c) Sustainability of ground water resources of the country is regularly evaluated through the Dynamic Ground Water Resources assessment exercise. As per the assessment results, total annual groundwater recharge has increased from 432 BCM in 2017 to 448.52 BCM in 2025. Further, the share of Safe assessment units has increased from 62.6% to 73.14%, while Over-exploited units have declined from 17.2% to 10.8% over the same period, indicating an overall improvement in groundwater recharge .
