

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4063

ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

**AREAS WITH LOWEST GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND HIGHEST GROUNDWATER
EXPLOITATION IN THE COUNTRY**

4063 # SHRI SANJAY YADAV:

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

- (a) the districts/States with the lowest groundwater levels in the country and the main reasons for the decline in the groundwater level in these areas and the rate thereof;
- (b) the provisions being implemented and the programmes being run by Government to prevent groundwater exploitation in areas with low groundwater levels;
- (c) whether a special budget has been provided to promote groundwater management, recharge and conservation in these districts and if so, the details thereof district-wise; and
- (d) whether groundwater level monitoring stations, Jal Shakti Kendras and quality monitoring stations have been mandatorily established in these districts, if not, the reasons therefor and the district-wise details of the station?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(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 entire country during its post-monsoon monitoring round of monitoring conducted during November/December, 2025 indicates that around 89.9% wells monitored in the country have recorded water levels up to 10 metres below ground level (mbgl). Further, based on the analysis of decadal mean ground water level data, it is seen that higher rate of decline in ground water levels has been recorded in the districts falling in Western, North-western and Central peninsular parts of the country.

It is also to add that based on the dynamic ground water resource assessment, 2025, of the country conducted by CGWB in coordination with States, 94 districts of the country have been categorized as 'Over-Exploited', where the annual ground water extraction exceeds the extractable ground water resource and 21 districts have been categorized as 'Critical'. The list of such districts is provided in the **Annexure**.

However, despite favourable conditions in the country as a whole, some pockets may be experiencing seasonal ground water stress due to various factors like high population density, rapid urbanization and industrialization, dependence on water intensive crops, inefficient irrigation practices, climate change etc.

(b) 'Water' being a State subject, sustainable development and management and regulation of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the 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. The major steps taken in this direction, with a special focus on priority areas showing declining ground water levels, are provided 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. Since its inception in 2019, every edition of JSA has prioritized water stressed districts of the country as areas of special focus for concerted efforts. 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.
- 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 47 lakh rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures have been constructed across the country under this initiative.
- 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 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 229 Blocks across 7 States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Under the scheme, construction/rejuvenation of more than 83,000 rain water harvesting and recharge structures like check dams, ponds, shafts etc. was done under the scheme and an area of more than 9.7 lakh Hectares was brought under efficient irrigation practices like use of drips, sprinklers etc. As a result, 180 out of 229 Blocks have shown improvement in ground water levels during the assessments conducted between 2023 to 2025.
- iv. 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.

- v. 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.
- 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 are having their own regulatory mechanism/bodies. In remaining 19 States/UTs 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 and takes stringent measures such as imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) charges and penalties for unlawful ground water extraction. CGWA Guidelines also prohibit setting up new large scale industries in Over-Exploited areas.

(c) The programmes of Jal Shakti Abhiyan and Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari are being implemented in convergence with other ongoing Central and State schemes like MGNREGS (VB G RAM G), PMKSY etc. and no separate budgetary provisions are made. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, an amount of around Rs. 3,900 Cr as direct expenditure and Rs. 5,140 Cr as expenditure through convergence has been incurred in the water stressed Gram Panchayats covered under the Scheme. However, under the scheme, budget is not allocated district-wise. Further, during September, 2025, under the 'National Initiative on Water Security', it has been decided to spend at least 65% of MGNREGS funds on water conservation works in Over-Exploited (OE) and Critical Blocks of the country and 40% in Semi-critical Blocks.

(d) Ground water level and quality monitoring stations of CGWB and State governments are available in all States and Districts of the country barring a few exceptions. Currently, CGWB is having around 27,000 manual and 22,000 automated monitoring stations for ground water level and around 20,000 monitoring stations for ground water quality spread across the country. Further, under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Shakti Kendras have been established in 712 districts of the country to serve as community knowledge centers for water related issues.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4063 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 30.03.2026 REGARDING “AREAS WITH LOWEST GROUNDWATER LEVEL AND HIGHEST GROUNDWATER EXPLOITATION IN THE COUNTRY”.

List of Districts Categorized as ‘Over-Exploited’ and ‘Critical’ Based on Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment, 2025

‘Over-Exploited’ Districts with Stage of Ground Water Extraction >100%			
S. No.	Name of States	Name of District	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)
1	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	321.84
2	Punjab	Sangrur	309.99
3	Punjab	Malerkotla	301.93
4	Punjab	Jalandhar	281.17
5	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	254.97
6	Punjab	Kapurthala	242.96
7	Punjab	Moga	233.09
8	Rajasthan	Dausa	232.64
9	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu	227.55
10	Haryana	Kurukshetra	225.54
11	Punjab	Barnala	219.36
12	Haryana	Panipat	217.84
13	Rajasthan	Jaipur	217.01
14	Punjab	Patiala	208.53
15	Punjab	Tarn Taran	202.49
16	Haryana	Kaithal	196.96
17	Punjab	Ludhiana	194.65
18	Haryana	Gurgaon	194.60
19	Rajasthan	Sikar	191.35
20	Rajasthan	Nagaur	187.24
21	Karnataka	Kolar	184.43
22	Rajasthan	Alwar	182.14
23	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	182.13
24	Rajasthan	Jalor	178.14
25	Haryana	Fatehabad	177.90
26	Karnataka	Bengaluru (Urban)	177.28
27	Haryana	Faridabad	175.38
28	Haryana	Karnal	173.53
29	Karnataka	Chikkaballapura	165.66
30	Rajasthan	Chittaurgarh	161.86
31	Punjab	Amritsar	160.33
32	Haryana	Sirsa	159.72
33	Rajasthan	Pali	158.32
34	Haryana	Mahendragarh	156.85

35	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	155.81
36	Rajasthan	Sawai Madhopur	152.11
37	Rajasthan	Karauli	149.49
38	Tamil Nadu	Salem	147.53
39	Karnataka	Bengaluru (Rural)	146.78
40	Tamil Nadu	Tirupathur	142.87
41	Rajasthan	Bikaner	140.57
42	Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	139.59
43	Rajasthan	Ajmer	138.14
44	Rajasthan	Dhaulpur	138.03
45	Rajasthan	Baran	134.91
46	Rajasthan	Barmer	134.50
47	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	133.20
48	Haryana	Yamuna Nagar	133.19
49	Haryana	Rewari	133.17
50	Karnataka	Chitradurga	133.04
51	Haryana	Ambala	130.16
52	Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	129.17
53	Rajasthan	Churu	128.88
54	Punjab	Bathinda	128.04
55	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	124.81
56	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	123.75
57	Delhi	New Delhi	123.24
58	Tamil Nadu	Vellore	121.75
59	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	121.72
60	Gujarat	Banaskantha	121.47
61	Punjab	Gurdaspur	121.14
62	Rajasthan	Rajsamand	120.66
63	Rajasthan	Sirohi	119.30
64	Punjab	Faridkot	119.22
65	Gujarat	Patan	118.57
66	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	117.96
67	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	117.45
68	Punjab	Sas Nagar	116.90
69	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	116.72
70	Tamil Nadu	Mayiladuthurai	116.62
71	Haryana	Jind	116.25
72	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal	115.86
73	Punjab	Sbs Nagar	115.21
74	Delhi	Shahdara	112.21
75	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	111.39
76	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	111.28
77	Rajasthan	Kota	110.99
78	Haryana	Bhiwani	110.90
79	Punjab	Ferozpur	108.86
80	Gujarat	Mahesana	108.74
81	Haryana	Sonapat	108.73
82	Punjab	Mansa	108.71
83	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	107.72
84	Delhi	North East	106.01

85	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	105.93
86	Tamil Nadu	Perambalur	105.85
87	Madhya Pradesh	Shajapur	105.36
88	Uttar Pradesh	G.B.Nagar	105.21
89	Delhi	South	103.41
90	Tamil Nadu	Karur	103.12
91	Madhya Pradesh	Neemuch	101.47
92	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	100.84
93	Uttar Pradesh	Shamli	100.51
94	Rajasthan	Udaipur	100.08
'Critical' Districts with Stage of Ground Water Extraction >90% and ≤ 100 %			
95	Madhya Pradesh	Mandsaur	99.93
96	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	98.86
97	Telangana	Hyderabad	98.32
98	Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur	96.68
99	Delhi	East	96.42
100	Rajasthan	Bundi	95.91
101	Uttar Pradesh	Bagpat	95.91
102	Uttar Pradesh	Hapur	93.93
103	Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar	93.14
104	Uttar Pradesh	Amroha	93.08
105	Punjab	Rupnagar	92.80
106	Madhya Pradesh	Agar Malwa	92.79
107	Delhi	West	92.54
108	Tamil Nadu	Krishnagiri	92.38
109	Chhattisgarh	Bemetara	92.32
110	Haryana	Palwal	91.99
111	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	91.85
112	Uttar Pradesh	Hathras	91.46
113	Karnataka	Tumakuru	91.43
114	Rajasthan	Tonk	91.42
115	Karnataka	Bengaluru South	91.18
