

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4081**

ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

**WATER CONSERVATION**

4081 Dr. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of Jal Shakti be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to focus more on water conservation and reduce its use in the agriculture sector which takes away a major part of this essential resource and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by Government to recharge underground aquifers and replenish major reservoirs across the country, particularly in the State of Karnataka?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

**(a) & (b)** ‘Water’ being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources including its conservation are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments as per their own resources and priorities. The Central Government supplements the measures and efforts being taken up by the State Governments.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare implements Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) scheme across the country. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation namely Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems which helps in water saving as well as reduced fertilizer usage. The Government provides financial assistance for installation of Drip and Sprinkler systems under the PDMC. The Assistance for installation of Micro Irrigation systems is limited to 5 hectares per beneficiary. The achievement of the scheme of PDMC in the country is attached at **Annexure-I**.

Government of India launched “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)” to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices. Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) is one of the components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Department of Land Resources (DoLR) implements Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0 (WDC-PMKSY 2.0) for development of rainfed/degraded areas in the country. The activities undertaken in the scheme, inter alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, pasture development, livelihoods for asset-less persons. Under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, about 93837 no. of Water Harvesting Structures (WHS) have been created/rejuvenated and 1.20 Lakh ha additional area has been brought under protective irrigation. This includes 2174 no. of WHS created/rejuvenated and 6397 ha additional area brought under protective irrigation in Karnataka.

To fulfill the requirements of one of the goals of National Water Mission i.e. to increase water use efficiency by 20%, Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) was set up for efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sectors in October, 2022.

“Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari” (JSJB) initiative was launched in Surat, Gujarat on 6 September, 2024. The initiative focuses on intensifying community action and mobilization to build low-cost rainwater harvesting structures in low cost and saturation mode. The JSJB initiative leverages community funds, individual donations, Corporate Social Responsibility Funds and others for construction of low-cost structures like borewells, recharge shafts, recharge pits, using locally available material, to harvest rainwater, to boost ground water level and provide local tailor-made solution to water issues. The district-wise details of JSJB initiative in the State of Karnataka as per JSJB portal is attached at **Annexure-II**.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) focused on development of basic infrastructure, in the selected cities and towns, in the sectors of water supply; sewerage and septage management; storm water drainage; green spaces and parks; and non-motorized urban transport. AMRUT 2.0 is launched in the year 2021 in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ cities, enabling the cities to become 'self-reliant' and 'water secure'. Providing universal coverage of sewerage and septage management in 500 AMRUT cities is one of the major focus areas of AMRUT 2.0. Rejuvenation of water bodies and development of green spaces and parks are other components of the mission. States/UTs have taken up 09 waterbody rejuvenation projects worth ₹71.29 crore under AMRUT which include 01 water waterbody rejuvenation project worth ₹29.83 crore in Karnataka. Development of green spaces and parks was another thrust area of AMRUT Mission. 2,502 green spaces & parks projects have been completed under AMRUT and around 5,286.31 acre of permeable green space have been developed which helps with groundwater recharge. 180 green spaces & parks projects covering development of 347.78 acre of permeable green space have been taken up by Karnataka under AMRUT.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 lakh sq km across the country and 1,91,719 sq.km in the state of Karnataka. Based on NAQUIM studies, groundwater management plans have been prepared. In Karnataka state during 2023-24, three (03) studies were completed covering 1980.58 sq.km area and two (02) studies were completed during AAP 2024-25 covering 732 sq.km.

CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including Karnataka.

Further, the State Government of Karnataka reported key initiatives to actively promote water conservation and efficient water use in agriculture through a multi-pronged approach:

- i. **Capacity Building and Awareness:** The State conducts extensive training and awareness programs for farmers through 23 District Agricultural Training Centres, focusing on sustainable water management practices and efficient irrigation methods.
- ii. **Promotion of Micro-Irrigation:** To encourage adoption of water-saving technologies, Karnataka provides an additional State subsidy top-up of 35–45% under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) guidelines.
- iii. **Expansion of Area Coverage under Irrigation:** From the year 2015-16, the Karnataka State has facilitated the adoption of micro-irrigation by approximately 22.24 lakh farmers, covering an area of 22.62 lakh hectares across all 31 districts. This has been achieved through the effective utilization of around ₹ 4897.89 crore under various schemes, including PDMC, RIDF and Atal Bhujal Yojana.

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4081 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 30.03.2026 REGARDING “WATER CONSERVATION”.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Area covered under Micro Irrigation (in lakh ha)</b>
2015-16	5.73
2016-17	8.40
2017-18	10.49
2018-19	11.59
2019-20	11.73
2020-21	9.37
2021-22	10.15
2022-23	11.02
2023-24	11.40
2024-25	11.19
2025-26 (so far)	6.98
<b>Total</b>	<b>108.07</b>

**ANNEXURE-II**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4081 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 30.03.2026 REGARDING “WATER CONSERVATION”.**

<b>Karnataka - No. of artificial groundwater recharge and storage works Reported under JSJB 2.0 – as on 27 Mar 2026</b>		
<b>S.No</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Completed Work</b>
1	Bagalkote	1484
2	Ballari	3211
3	Belagavi	581
4	Bengaluru Rural	654
5	Bengaluru Urban	0
6	Bidar	4976
7	Chamarajanagar	579
8	Chikkaballapura	9321
9	Chikkamagaluru	380
10	Chitradurga	5054
11	Dakshina Kannada	602
12	Davanagere	209
13	Dharwad	435
14	Gadag	8832
15	Hassan	1775
16	Haveri	108
17	Kalaburagi	1488
18	Kodagu	113
19	Kolar	18422
20	Koppal	1863
21	Mandya	94
22	Mysuru	558
23	Raichur	18
24	Ramanagara	1667
25	Shivamogga	187
26	Tumakuru	11014
27	Udupi	74
28	Uttara Kannada	916
29	Vijayanagara	494
30	Vijayapura	2176
31	Yadgir	2155
<b>Grand Total :</b>		<b>79440</b>

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