

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1671

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

WATER SCARCITY IN TAMIL NADU

1671 Dr. M. DHANAPAL:

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

- (a) the concerns brought to the notice of Government regarding water scarcity in drought-prone regions of the State of Tamil Nadu and the need for expansion of rainwater-harvesting structures;
- (b) the assistance provided for Panchayat-level implementation, community participation, technical training and monitoring of rain water-harvesting initiatives in the State;
- (c) the measures proposed by Government to integrate rainwater harvesting with groundwater recharge and sustainable water-resource management practices; and
- (d) the outcomes achieved in strengthening water security, protecting livelihoods and enhancing resilience to climate-related water stress in the State of Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

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

“Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari” (JSJB) initiative was launched in Surat, Gujarat on 6th September, 2024. In June 2025, JSJB 2.0 was launched. The implementation cycle for JSJB 2.0 commenced on 1st June, 2025 and concluded on 31st May, 2026. The details of JSJB initiative in the state of Tamil Nadu are attached at **Annexure-I**.

Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Catch the Rain (JSJB: CTR) – 2026 was launched on 1st June, 2026 enhancing the scope of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative and simultaneously integrating it with the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign. The JSJB initiative focuses on intensifying community action and mobilization to build low-cost rainwater harvesting structures in low cost and saturation mode.

The 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 initiative also emphasizes convergent financing from various schemes of the Central, State and local bodies like Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and Finance Commission grants.

The objective is to ensure that every drop of water is conserved through collective efforts, following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. By fostering community ownership, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions at the micro level for water conservation and ground water recharge. The initiative is guided by the 3Cs principle—Community, CSR and Cost, ensuring effective convergence and maximized outcomes. The Government promotes the initiative in partnership with State Governments and local authorities to ensure its widespread reach and awareness. The initiative aims at forging partnership with stakeholders such as NGOs, Trusts, Civil Societies and educational institutions to engage the broader community effectively. The progress of the campaign is monitored through online portal - JSJB: CTR (<https://jsjb.mowr.gov.in>).

To address the challenges faced by States and local bodies in implementing rainwater harvesting systems and to ensure effective implementation of the campaign, the Government of India has adopted a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach. As part of this strategy, State Nodal Officers (SNOs) and District Nodal Officers (DNOs) have been appointed at the State and District levels, respectively, to monitor progress and to provide technical assistance. Besides, meetings are conducted with SNOs, Municipal Commissioners, District Magistrates (DMs)/ Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Partner Central Ministries/Departments, and other stakeholders concerned to provide necessary support and gather feedback.

Capacity building and sensitisation of local stakeholders form an integral part of the campaign. Review and coordination meetings are held with officers from CGWB & CWC and District Magistrates, supported by guidelines and checklists, to strengthen the water conservation works, implementation and monitoring. IEC activities, community meetings and field interactions are undertaken to enhance awareness, technical understanding and participatory implementation at the grassroots level.

In 2019, the Ministry of Jal Shakti launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) as a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign in 256 water stressed districts of the country. The Hon'ble PM of

India launched the campaign in 2021 as Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) with the message, "Catch the Rain: Where It Falls, When It Falls." Since then, JSA: CTR evolved into a national movement, reinforcing India's collective commitment to water security through localised action and institutional convergence. The JSA: CTR campaign was implemented nationwide and each edition had included a targeted focus since 2023 to maximize impact. The JSA: CTR 2023, with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water," prioritized 150 special focus districts identified by the Jal Jeevan Mission. The JSA: CTR 2024 campaign, themed "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti," was carried out across the country with a special focus on 151 districts identified by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). The JSA: CTR 2025 was launched with the theme "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: Jan Jagrukta Ki Or" emphasizing deeper grassroots engagement, inter-sectoral convergence and innovative financing mechanisms with special focus on 148 districts identified by CGWB.

Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been established across the country including Tamil Nadu, serving as dedicated resource and knowledge centers to provide technical guidance to locals and support district administration in implementation of rain water harvesting systems. 712 JSKs have been established across the country including 38 JSKs in Tamil Nadu.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) play a central role in mobilising communities, facilitating local-level planning and ensuring participatory implementation and monitoring of water conservation works. Women Self Help Groups (SHGs), youth, students and local community groups are actively involved in awareness generation, behaviour change communication and social mobilisation, thereby strengthening grassroots participation and ownership.

Village-level feasibility maps have been shared with districts to support technical planning and facilitate the effective implementation of water conservation and groundwater recharge interventions. In addition, districts across the country have prepared District Water Conservation Plans to ensure sustainable water management in their respective districts.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reported that the assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country including Tamil Nadu provides updated estimates of annual groundwater recharge, annual extractable groundwater resource, annual groundwater extraction and stage of groundwater extraction, and categorizes assessment units as Safe, Semi-Critical, Critical and Over-Exploited based on stage of groundwater extraction. A comparative statement of the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessments in the State of Tamil Nadu for the years 2017 and 2025 is attached at **Annexure-II**.

Further, CGWB organises State and district level dissemination workshops, training programmes, seminars and capacity-building activities for State Government officials, Panchayati Raj Institutions,

Water User Associations, farmers and other stakeholders. These programmes promote community participation and build local capacity for informed planning and sustainable management of groundwater resources. CGWB also conducts various outreach and awareness programmes like Public Interaction Programmes (PIP), Mass Awareness Programmes (MAP) on local groundwater issues wherein the local public is made aware of rainwater harvesting techniques and conservation of water harvesting structures.

Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to integrate rainwater harvesting with groundwater recharge and sustainable water-resources management practices are:

- CGWB 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 Tamil Nadu.
- CGWB completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km of the country including Tamil Nadu.
- National Water Policy (2012), formulated by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, inter-alia advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall.
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) focuses on development of basic infrastructure in the sectors of water supply, sewerage and septage management, storm water drainage, green spaces and parks. Rejuvenation of water bodies and development of green spaces and parks are other components of the mission. Under AMRUT/AMRUT 2.0 and in convergence with the State, 23.07 lakh household tap connections have been provided, 863.05 MLD of water treatment capacity developed and 8994.13 km of water network laid.

As reported by the Department of Rural Development, district wise details of expenditure made on water related works under MGNREGS in the State of Tamil Nadu are given at **Annexure-III**.

Further the State Government of Tamil Nadu reported that, the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (TNWRD) implements various initiatives to address water scarcity in drought-prone regions. To enhance groundwater recharge and improve water security, TNWRD implemented works like construction of Check Dams, Artificial Recharge Shafts, Recharge Wells and Subsurface Dykes. The details of these works are:

- Artificial Recharge Shaft: 1092 numbers of Artificial Recharge Shaft were constructed from 2020-21 to 2025-26.
- Artificial Recharge Wells: 169 numbers of Artificial Recharge Wells were constructed from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- Check Dams: 87 check dams were completed from 2021 to 2026.
- Anicut/Dividing Dam: 22 Anicut/Dividing Dams were completed from 2021 to 2026.
- Subsurface Dyke: 6 Subsurface Dykes were completed from 2021 to 2026.

The groundwater recharge and water conservation measures implemented by TNWRD, contributed to improving groundwater availability, enhancing water security, and increasing the sustainability of water resources in various parts of the State. These interventions also strengthened the resilience of drought-prone and water-stressed regions by improving groundwater recharge, reducing the adverse impacts of climate-related water stress, and promoting sustainable management of water resources.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1671 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.08.2026 REGARDING “WATER SCARCITY IN TAMIL NADU”.

District-wise progress in State of Tamil Nadu under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0		
S. No	District	Completed Works
1.	ARIYALUR	642
2.	CHENGALPATTU	344
3.	COIMBATORE	28147
4.	CUDDALORE	5
5.	DHARMAPURI	673
6.	DINDIGUL	800
7.	ERODE	491
8.	KALLAKURICHI	166
9.	KANCHIPURAM	58
10.	KANNIYAKUMARI	73
11.	KARUR	340
12.	KRISHNAGIRI	539
13.	MADURAI	479
14.	MAYILADUTHURAI	704
15.	NAGAPATTINAM	58
16.	NAMAKKAL	7057
17.	PERAMBALUR	448

18.	PUDUKKOTTAI	828
19.	RAMANATHAPURAM	5269
20.	RANIPET	483
21.	SALEM	3051
22.	SIVAGANGA	244
23.	TENKASI	417
24.	THANJAVUR	3043
25.	THE NILGIRIS	51
26.	THENI	165
27.	THIRUVALLUR	438
28.	THIRUVARUR	557
29.	TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	1030
30.	TIRUNELVELI	330
31.	TIRUPATHUR	321
32.	TIRUPPUR	642
33.	TIRUVANNAMALAI	2253
34.	TUTICORIN	366
35.	VELLORE	710
36.	VILLUPURAM	555
37.	VIRUDHUNAGAR	1058

District-wise progress in State of Tamil Nadu under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 2.0

Sl. No.	District	Completed Works
1.	ARIYALUR	2928
2.	CHENGALPATTU	1323
3.	COIMBATORE	30036
4.	CUDDALORE	2548
5.	DHARMAPURI	4746
6.	DINDIGUL	5858
7.	ERODE	5297
8.	KALLAKURICHI	996
9.	KANCHEEPURAM	3436
10.	KANNIYAKUMARI	4848
11.	KARUR	2723
12.	KRISHNAGIRI	2102
13.	MADURAI	1427
14.	MAYILADUTHURAI	384
15.	NAGAPATTINAM	5149
16.	NAMAKKAL	45864
17.	PERAMBALUR	1653
18.	PUDUKKOTTAI	997

19.	RAMANATHAPURAM	1245
20.	RANIPET	727
21.	SALEM	19394
22.	SIVAGANGA	1037
23.	TENKASI	506
24.	THANJAVUR	4515
25.	THE NILGIRIS	374
26.	THENI	1128
27.	THIRUVALLUR	4618
28.	THIRUVARUR	12164
29.	THOOTHUKKUDI	918
30.	TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	5031
31.	TIRUNELVELI	2756
32.	TIRUPATHUR	2792
33.	TIRUPPUR	1661
34.	TIRUVANNAMALAI	4213
35.	VELLORE	13018
36.	VILUPPURAM	2513
37.	VIRUDHUNAGAR	4659

Annexure-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1671 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 03.08.2026 REGARDING “WATER SCARCITY IN TAMIL NADU”.

S. No.	Attribute	Year 2017	Year 2025
1	Total Annual Ground Water Recharge (BCM)	20.22	22.61
2	Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource (BCM)	18.20	20.46
3	Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses (BCM)	14.73	15.04
4	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)	80.94	73.50

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District-wise details of expenditure made on water related works under MGNREGS during last five years in the State of Tamil Nadu (in Rs. Lakh)						
S No.	District	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
1	ARIYALUR	7,878.24	17,420.29	16,783.00	7,721.33	9,579.23
2	CHENGALPATTU	12,863.67	15,099.78	33,346.26	38,431.86	34,822.72
3	COIMBATORE	2,204.60	1,105.09	4,141.59	5,523.25	6,789.92
4	CUDDALORE	18,582.78	37,527.91	45,585.07	21,873.09	19,606.71
5	DHARMAPURI	13,324.62	18,647.11	27,145.06	12,159.92	10,385.92
6	DINDIGUL	22,456.02	9,585.50	42,721.72	29,303.05	34,890.61
7	ERODE	6,231.80	5,114.90	13,850.42	13,289.12	11,857.82
8	KALLAKURICHI	15,841.62	34,732.22	31,079.01	20,890.00	14,581.17
9	KANCHIPURAM	5,345.17	16,320.61	25,919.55	23,994.12	26,534.68
10	KANNIYAKUMARI	2,187.42	3,851.75	5,509.11	5,927.56	5,327.61
11	KARUR	7,634.93	3,504.83	13,176.07	8,668.82	13,037.61
12	KRISHNAGIRI	15,131.92	12,644.41	13,595.29	12,080.95	15,223.35
13	MADURAI	19,828.94	20,120.72	31,730.19	19,777.12	15,183.04
14	MAYILADUTHURAI	2,891.49	13,478.83	21,760.06	19,295.40	11,199.46
15	NAGAPATTINAM	1,064.40	2,265.82	15,637.13	12,439.36	10,495.21
16	NAMAKKAL	9,365.35	20,701.12	24,589.45	15,480.09	16,816.39
17	PERAMBALUR	5,013.86	9,464.17	13,116.38	7,744.46	7,192.32
18	PUDUKKOTTAI	17,580.20	31,292.04	48,398.21	29,559.09	31,644.62
19	RAMANATHAPURAM	9,665.64	4,818.81	30,686.43	23,504.33	23,025.91
20	Ranipet	11,946.63	18,959.39	20,332.16	16,115.41	9,935.34
21	SALEM	10,563.18	29,546.10	42,172.67	23,623.12	21,175.09
22	SIVAGANGAI	14,220.85	14,508.85	24,701.11	18,692.55	17,140.70
23	TENKASI	4,109.82	7,026.89	17,176.64	13,023.01	13,147.67
24	THANJAVUR	12,896.55	21,141.81	40,497.65	22,196.63	21,252.03
25	THE NILGIRIS	318.90	2,534.10	2,534.73	2,124.49	2,851.13

26	THENI	3,160.78	6,077.05	9,663.73	4,981.20	5,640.37
27	THOOTHUKKUDI	7,190.23	13,634.22	19,679.06	15,014.12	14,879.22
28	TIRUCHIRAPPALLI	12,353.73	22,830.70	45,321.22	40,602.48	37,308.82
29	TIRUNELVELI	4,074.28	8,345.32	13,604.89	12,044.68	10,828.12
30	TIRUPATHUR	5,521.83	3,246.66	6,661.33	4,703.85	4,513.94
31	TIRUPPUR	6,811.59	6,439.94	13,247.56	12,426.28	9,857.82
32	TIRUVALLUR	18,894.34	29,807.47	41,829.80	33,247.15	29,096.73
33	TIRUVANNAMALAI	28,586.74	48,858.05	83,878.32	60,626.03	49,961.61
34	TIRUVARUR	1,151.81	1,957.96	17,790.29	10,899.21	13,957.91
35	VELLORE	6,729.69	8,185.19	21,246.46	14,978.87	11,634.71
36	VILLUPURAM	18,475.51	47,295.38	48,935.94	37,121.10	45,799.64
37	VIRUDHUNAGAR	7,224.16	20,717.17	32,484.20	26,052.08	26,637.16
	Total	3,69,323.29	5,88,808.16	9,60,527.76	6,96,135.18	6,63,812.31
