

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2460

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

REVIEW OF NATIONAL AQUIFER MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

2460 # Shri BRIJ LAL:

Shri MADAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM 2.0);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made in high-resolution aquifer mapping and the preparation of area-specific groundwater management plans under the programme;
- (d) whether any mechanism has been put in place to facilitate the utilization of scientific inputs generated under NAQUIM 2.0 by State Governments and local bodies for groundwater planning and management;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the manner in which this program is expected to strengthen evidence-based groundwater management and long-term water security in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed aquifer mapping under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM 1.0), covering about 25 lakh sq. km of the identified mappable area of the country and has shared aquifer maps and Aquifer Management Plans with the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations. Building upon this, NAQUIM 2.0 was initiated in 2023 for preparation of high-resolution aquifer maps and issue-specific groundwater management plans in identified priority areas such as water-stressed regions, groundwater quality-affected areas, urban agglomerations, industrial clusters, coastal aquifers and springsheds.

Under NAQUIM 2.0, 143 studies covering about 76,857 sq. km were taken up across the country during 2023–24 to 2025–26. These studies generated high-resolution scientific information on aquifer characteristics, groundwater availability and quality, recharge potential and groundwater stress, which form the basis for preparation of area-specific Aquifer Management Plans recommending suitable supply-side and demand-side interventions for sustainable groundwater management.

Further, CGWB has completed Heliborne Geophysical Surveys in selected arid and semi-arid areas of north-western India, covering parts of 92 blocks across 17 districts and about 10,500 Gram Panchayats. The surveys have facilitated preparation of three-dimensional aquifer models and thematic maps, delineation of fresh and saline aquifers, and identification of suitable locations for groundwater exploration and managed aquifer recharge. These findings have been shared with the State Governments.

(d) & (e) The aquifer maps, groundwater data and Aquifer Management Plans prepared under NAQUIM 1.0/NAQUIM 2.0 are shared with the concerned State Governments, other relevant stakeholders for consideration and use in groundwater planning and management. CGWB facilitates utilisation of the scientific outputs through State and district level data dissemination workshops, Public Interaction Programmes, stakeholder consultations, capacity-building programmes and scientific and technical guidance for convergence with applicable Central and State Government programmes.

However, water being a State subject, implementation of the recommendations contained in the Aquifer Management Plans prepared under NAQUIM 1.0/NAQUIM 2.0 are to be undertaken by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations and local authorities in accordance with their requirements, priorities and available resources.

(f) NAQUIM 2.0 strengthens evidence-based groundwater management by providing high-resolution, area-specific scientific information on aquifer systems, groundwater availability and quality, recharge potential and extraction-related stress. The Aquifer Management Plans facilitate identification of locally appropriate supply-side and demand-side interventions and support scientific groundwater planning. The scientific information and Aquifer Management Plans generated under the programme enable prioritisation of groundwater management interventions and contribute to long-term water security.
