GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854
ANSWERED ON 27/07/2026

URBAN WATER SECURITY

854. SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

Will the Minister of *Housing and Urban Affairs* be pleased to state:

(a) cities classified as water-stressed;
(b) projected shortages by 2035;
(c) measures undertaken;
(d) whether Government regulates groundwater extraction by data centres and industrial parks;
(e) the details of permissions granted; and
(f) the monitoring mechanism?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)

(a) and (b): The Central Ground Water Board monitors groundwater levels through its monitoring network and carries out periodic groundwater resource assessments. The assessment estimates Total Annual Ground Water Recharge, Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource and Annual Ground Water Extraction (for all uses). The Stage of Ground Water Extraction (SoE) is computed as the ratio of Annual Ground Water Extraction to Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource (in %) and, based on SoE, assessment units are categorised as Safe (≤70%), Semi-Critical (>70% to ≤90%), Critical (>90% to ≤100%) and Over-Exploited (>100%).

As per Ground Water Resource Assessment-2025 (latest), out of the total 6762 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 131 assessment units in 18 State/UTs are "URBAN" units. Out of these 131 assessment units, 60 units are classified as 'Over-exploited', 21 as 'Critical', 16 as 'Semi-critical', 33 as 'Safe', and 1 unit as 'Saline'. The report is available at https://www.jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/711d8d476bbf498cd90f8038e7371227.pdf

Contd…2/-

CGWB has not undertaken city-wise projections of water shortages up to the year 2035.

(c): Water being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States through various Mission/ Schemes such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0 for water supply in the urban areas.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in the year 2015 in selected 500 cities (now 485 cities including 15 merged cities) and towns across the country was 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. Under the Mission, States/ Union Territories (UTs) are empowered to select, appraise, prioritize and implement projects.

Under AMRUT 2.0, cities have prepared City Water Balance Plans (CWBPs), which include as-is assessment of water supply systems which help cities/ ULBs to identify gaps. CWBP help cities to identify scope for projects focusing on the objectives of Mission. Based on the projects identified CWBPs, City Water Action Plans (CWAPs) are devised which are aggregated in the form of State Water Action Plans (SWAPs).

Under AMRUT, 1,411 water supply projects worth ₹43,372 crore have been taken up by the States/ Union Territories, which includes development of 6,140 Million Litre Per Day (MLD) water treatment capacity and laying of 73,520 km water pipeline network. Under AMRUT 2.0, 3,572 water supply projects worth ₹1,18,968.38 crore (including O&M cost) have been approved so far, which includes augmentation of 11,769 MLD of water treatment capacity and 1.61 lakh km water network (new/rehabilitation). Under AMRUT/ AMRUT 2.0 and in convergence with the States, 270 lakh water connections have been provided/ rehabilitated, 5611 MLD of water treatment capacity developed and 1.12 lakh km of water pipeline laid till 09.07.2026.

Contd…3/-

Under AMRUT 2.0, States/ UTs have taken up 2,951 water body rejuvenation projects worth ₹6,003.34 crore and 1,649 parks projects worth ₹1,087.12 crore, covering development of about 12,750 acres of permeable green space, which help in ground water recharge. Under AMRUT, 2,512 green spaces and parks projects have been completed, creating about 5,400 acres of permeable green space.

Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) initiative under the AMRUT 2.0 was launched as a pilot project across 9 diverse Indian cities. The initiative aimed to demonstrate the effectiveness of strategic interventions in managing shallow aquifers and supports aquifer mapping and recharge interventions to strengthen groundwater resilience. In SAM 2.0, 75 cities have been taken up for scaling groundwater interventions.

For augmentation of water supply, 1,437 MLD of used water reuse capacity has been created under AMRUT and 1,900 MLD additional capacity has been approved under AMRUT 2.0. 490 water supply schemes in AMRUT cities are drawing 6,700 MLD of surface water under AMRUT as part of shifting from single-source dependency to a composite mix of surface and groundwater.

For reduction of transmission losses and non-revenue water, AMRUT 2.0 promotes adoption of smart elements like smart metering, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)-based monitoring, sensors etc. Further, Mission advocates to adopt District Metered Area (DMA) approach in creation of projects where ever feasible. For addressing non revenue water issues, States have taken up Drink from Tap (DfT) projects and Smart Monitoring Systems such as SCADA, meters, pressure valves, etc. under AMRUT 2.0 to strengthen maintenance systems, digital monitoring, energy efficiency, etc. States are encouraged to implement at least one DfT project in a DMA or ward within each AMRUT city. 407 projects with 1,285 DMAs benefitting 20.40 lakh Households have been approved under AMRUT 2.0 and 1,473 water supply projects under AMRUT 2.0 has provision for SCADA system.

CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans with community participation. Aquifer mapping has been completed for the entire mappable area of the country (about 25 lakh sq. km), including urban areas. The management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State governments for taking appropriate measures / implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures. Building on the experience of the NAQUIM 1.0, CGWB has initiated NAQUIM 2.0 studies for detailed mapping with much higher granularity in identified priority areas which also

Contd…4/-

include urban agglomerates. The core objective of NAQUIM 2.0 is to present implementable ground water management plans and strategies.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has advised States/UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting. As per CGWA Guidelines, infrastructure projects drawing groundwater 20 Kilo Litre per Day (KLD) or more are required to install Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and use the treated water for greenbelt development/ washing of cars etc.

(d) to (f): Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) regulates groundwater extraction by industrial, infrastructure and mining projects, including data centres and industrial parks falling within the applicable project categories, in accordance with the Guidelines notified by the Ministry of Jal Shakti on 24.09.2020, as amended on 29.03.2023. The Guidelines have pan-India applicability. In States/UTs where groundwater regulation is undertaken by the respective authority, the Ministry of Jal Shakti/CGWA advocates adoption of the Guidelines or alignment of the existing regulatory provisions with the Central Guidelines.

NOCs for groundwater extraction are issued by the CGWA on a project-specific basis through the prescribed online system in States/UTs where groundwater regulation is undertaken by CGWA. In this regard, two NOCs have been issued to industrial parks for groundwater extraction for drinking and domestic purposes, and one NOC has been issued to a data centre for extraction of 9 KLD for drinking and domestic purposes.

Project proponents are required to install digital flow meters on groundwater-abstraction structures within 30 days of receiving the NOC and maintain records of the quantity extracted. Industries located outside notified cluster areas are required to install piezometers equipped with Digital Water Level Recorders for groundwater-level monitoring within 11 months. Industries extracting more than 100 KLD are required to undertake biennial water audits through certified auditors and submit the reports at the time of renewal. The BhuNeer APP portal imposes penalties for non-compliance of NOC conditions and the same is verified during the processing of renewal applications.

*****