

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 87
ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

IMPLEMENTATION OF ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WATER CONSERVATION

87. Shri BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:

Dr. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether groundwater conservation has improved through Atal Bhujal Yojana and other schemes;
- (b) the progress made in water harvesting initiatives;
- (c) the role of community participation; and
- (d) the measures adopted to ensure sustainable water resources?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) 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 facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects, including under Atal Bhujal Yojana and other groundwater management initiatives. Atal Bhujal Yojana, a pilot scheme for community-led participatory groundwater management implemented in 8,203 water-stressed Gram Panchayats across 229 blocks of seven States was implemented during 01.04.2020 to 15.10.2025, for improving groundwater management through preparation of Water Security Plans, adoption of water-efficient practices, community-led monitoring and groundwater recharge interventions. During the assessments conducted between 2023 and 2025, 180 out of 229 blocks have shown improvement in groundwater levels. As per the 2025 Ground Water Resources Estimation, total Annual Ground Water Recharge is estimated at 448.52 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) which shows an improvement of 16.52 BCM as compared to the recharge estimated in 2017. Further, the over-exploited units have decreased to 10.8% in 2025 as compared to 17.25% in 2017. The Government is also promoting sustainable groundwater management through initiatives such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, National Aquifer Mapping and Monitoring Programme (NAQUIM 2.0), Mission Amrit Sarovar, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Per Drop More Crop Scheme and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0.

(b) For water harvesting, the Government has initiated several initiatives to ensure long term sustainability. Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, more than 2 crore water conservation and artificial recharge works have been undertaken through convergence. Under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, more than 1.55 Cr. rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge structures have been constructed. Nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated under Mission Amrit Sarovar. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, more than 83,800 groundwater recharge and water conservation

structures have been constructed/renovated and over 99,000 existing structures have been mapped. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater–2020. AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 support rejuvenation of urban water bodies and development of permeable green spaces for groundwater recharge. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed and promoted cost-effective rainwater harvesting technologies, including ponds, tanks, check dams, jal kunds and recharge ponds for agricultural water management.

(c) Community participation forms the cornerstone of the Government's water conservation initiatives. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, participatory Water Budgets and Water Security Plans have been prepared and updated annually by all Gram Panchayats, supported by more than 1.28 lakh Gram Panchayat-level trainings. NGOs were engaged as District Implementation Partners and a minimum of 33% women's participation in active decision-making was mandated. Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari promotes a whole-of-society approach by mobilizing communities, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support, educational institutions, civil society organizations and local bodies for construction of rainwater harvesting structures. CGWB conducts Public Interaction Programmes, Mass Awareness Programmes and Source Sustainability Trainings to promote groundwater conservation through participatory approaches. Under the AMRUT Mitra initiative, Women Self Help Groups have been engaged in water quality testing, operation and maintenance support, bill distribution and awareness activities. ICAR promotes community-led watershed management through Watershed Committees, Self-Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organizations.

(d) The Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to ensure sustainable water resources management. Sustainable groundwater management is being promoted through scientific monitoring, aquifer mapping, artificial recharge measures and community-based interventions. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) - Per Drop More Crop component aims to improve water-use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation. Under PMKSY irrigation potential of 30.66 lakh hectares has been created. The development of 23.42 lakh hectares of command area under its Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Command Area Development & Water Management components has been achieved.. NAQUIM 2.0 focuses on water-stressed and quality-affected areas using state-of-the-art technologies for scientific groundwater management. AMRUT 2.0 promotes city water balance plans, recycling and reuse of treated wastewater, rejuvenation of water bodies and reduction of non-revenue water through smart monitoring systems. The National Water Mission supports basin-level Integrated Water Resources Management through State-Specific Action Plans aligned with climate change considerations. The Ministry has also notified guidelines for regulation of groundwater extraction requiring rainwater harvesting measures by industries, infrastructure and mining projects, and circulated the Model Bill for groundwater regulation to States/UTs. 17 States/UTs are having their own regulatory mechanism for groundwater extraction. VB-G RAM G (Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin) (earlier MGNREGS) works related to water conservation and water harvesting including large scale desiltation projects for water bodies, rejuvenation of river stretches etc have been carried out by various State Governments. Under VB-G RAM G 65% of the funds has been allocated for water conservation related works in Over-exploited and Critical rural blocks. Further, sustainable agricultural water management is being promoted through micro-irrigation, crop diversification and resource conservation technologies.
