

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2734**

ANSWERED ON 22.12.2022

**GROUND WATER EXTRACTION**

2734 DR. TALARI RANGAIAH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether it is a fact that India tops the list of the ten ground water extracting countries;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce dependency on ground water resources;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal for a pan India scheme for rejuvenation of the ground water resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

- (a) No such information is readily available, however, as per one of the latest UN report India is among top countries with the highest shares in global groundwater withdrawal in 2017.
- (b) Water being state subject the efforts to reduce dependence on groundwater/sustainable management of water including effective rainwater harvesting is mainly responsibility of the State, however, important steps taken by the Central Government in this regard can be seen at [http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water\\_depletion\\_july2022.pdf](http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf)

Central Government is promoting conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water for various purposes including agriculture and drinking water etc through various policy initiatives/schemes. National Water Policy (NWP-2012) advocates for a number of policy interventions for sustainable management of water resources including efficient use of groundwater and surface water in the country.

Government of India launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) in the year 1996-97 to provide Central Assistance to States for the major/medium irrigation projects in the Country. Further, during the year 2015-16, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched with the aim 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 etc., and Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was co-opted in it. Major and Medium Irrigation Projects through surface water sources at various places have been taken up under this scheme.

Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies and Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) schemes are being implemented by this Ministry as part of PMKSY with an aim to comprehensively

improve & restore the water bodies, to promote conjunctive use of surface & ground water, ground water recharge/conservation and to undertake minor irrigation projects using surface water etc.

Guidelines have been issued on 24.09.2020 for regulation and control of ground water extraction in the country. Water being a State subject, the guidelines advocate for a participatory approach for sustainable ground water management in agriculture sector including working towards crop rotation, diversification & other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater.

The Government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs. 6000 crore Central Sector Scheme with World Bank assistance, for sustainable management of ground water resources which include activities like preparation of water security plan at Gram Panchayat level in participatory mode by involving communities to use available groundwater and surface water in an efficient manner. The scheme is being taken up in select areas that include 80 districts, 229 administrative blocks and 8221 water stressed Gram Panchayats of seven States, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh from 01.04.2020 for a period of 5 years.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) which is operational from 2015-16. The PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation system) to reduce the extraction of groundwater.

**(c) & (d)** Central Government works in close collaboration with States/UTs through various initiatives/schemes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), MGNREGA, PMKSY-Watershed development etc to supplement their efforts for sustainable management of groundwater. The JSA was launched in 2019 with the primary aim to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. The JSA has continued during 2021 and 2022 which were launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble President of India respectively.

CGWB is implementing National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme with the objectives to delineate the aquifers, characterize them and prepare groundwater management plans. Out of the identified 25 lakh Sq Km area for coverage under NAQUIM studies, so far, an area of 24.4 lakh Sq Km has already been covered. The entire 25 lakh Sq Km is targeted to be covered by March 2023. The NAQUIM reports are shared with States/UTs for use.

The Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater -2020 has been jointly prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States. The master plan envisages creation of 141.75 Lakh water harvesting/conservation structures for both rural and urban areas at an estimated cost of Rs 1.34 lakh Cr. The Master plan has been shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions through relevant Central/State schemes.

Further, Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

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