

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1334**

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

**GROUND WATER EXTRACTION**

1334. SHRI N. REDDEPPA

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

- (a) whether it is true that India tops the list of the top ten ground water extracting countries;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the dependency on ground water resources;
- (c) whether the Government has proposed a pan India scheme for the rejuvenation of 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 BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Such information is not readily available, however, as per one of the UN report India is among top countries with the highest shares in groundwater withdrawal in 2017.

(b) Water being State subject taking suitable steps to reduce dependency on groundwater is States' responsibility, however a number of initiatives have been taken by the Central Government in this direction which can be seen at

[https://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water\\_depletion\\_july2022.pdf](https://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf). Some of the important initiatives are given as under.

(i) Central Government is promoting conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water in agriculture, drinking water and other applications etc through various policy initiatives/schemes. In this regard, 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.

(ii) Central Government 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.

(iii) 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.

(iv) Guidelines (with pan India applicability) for regulation and control of ground water extraction in the country was notified by the Ministry on 24.09.2020. Water being a State subject, the guideline advocates 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.

(v) Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs. 6000 crore Central Sector Scheme, is being implemented by the Ministry 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 8220 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.

(vi) 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 generally supports water harvesting/conservation efforts through pan India schemes like MGNREGS, PMKSY-Watershed development etc. During 2019, Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched by the Central Government with an aim to closely monitor the progress towards harvesting the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, renovation of recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation etc in convergence with various Central/State government schemes. The JSA had continued during 2021 and 2022 which were launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble President of India respectively.

With an aim to delineate and characterize the aquifer system of the entire country and to suggest effective management plan, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing National Aquifer Mapping program (NAQUIM). Out of the identified 25 lakh sq km area for coverage under NAQUIM studies, so far, an area of 24.50 Lakh Sq Km (as on 30 Dec 2022) 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.

In addition, the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater -2020 has been jointly prepared by 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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