

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *171

ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

*171

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA

SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the participation of communities and panchayats under the Atal Bhujal Yojana;
- (b) the details of the disbursement linked indicators that the Government follows while giving incentive disbursement to States under Atal Bhujal Yojana;
- (c) the criteria for identifying water-stressed areas within each of the seven States identified under Atal Bhujal Yojana, particularly in Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh along with the details of the areas so identified; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to inculcate behavioural change amongst citizens in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *171 TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA”

(a) Community participation is fundamental to the implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana. Communities play a crucial role in the collection and dissemination of groundwater information like water level and its trend, water quality, contributing valuable localised groundwater information. They have been trained to use relevant instrument and procedures for this purpose. Based on the knowledge and experience gained, they are further trained for the nuances of water budgeting which helps in preparation of effective, implementable water security plans reflecting the specific needs and challenges of their panchayats. These plans are presented in gram sabha for wider discussion and participation. Moreover, Social inclusion is adopted through mandatory 33% (minimum) women’s participation in active decision making roles. Community participation ensures the convergence and effective implementation of other related schemes, fostering a holistic and integrated approach to groundwater management. By adopting water-efficient practices, communities contribute directly to the sustainability of groundwater resources, aligning with the overarching goals of the scheme.

Community participation has been ensured further through, regular meetings/discussions, various modes of Information, Education and communication (IEC), awareness programmes and materials developed in vernacular languages. NGOs are engaged by the participating states as District Implementation Partners (DIPs), to facilitate handholding of the communities at each step. At Gram Panchayat Level, Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSCs) members are trained so that they can ensure wider, informed public participation.

(b) Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) are result indicators linked to disbursement of funds under the Incentive component of the scheme. Funds shall be disbursed subject to achievement of the result indicators by the States. The five DLIs defined under Atal Bhujal Yojana are as follows:

- DLI 1: Public disclosure of groundwater data /information and reports
- DLI 2: Preparation of Community-led Water Security Plans
- DLI 3: Public financing of approved Water Security Plans through convergence of ongoing /newschemes
- DLI 4: Adoption of practices for efficient water use
- DLI 5: Improvement in the rate of decline of groundwater levels

(c) Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana in 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is not being implemented in Odisha. The states were selected according to a number of criteria including degree of groundwater exploitation and degradation, established legal and regulatory instruments, institutional readiness and experience in implementing initiatives related to groundwater management.

Area covered under Atal Bhujal Yojana in the seven participating states can be seen at <https://ataljal.mowr.gov.in/Ataljalimages/Data%20Disclosure/Area%20under%20Atal%20Bhujal%20Yojana.pdf>

(d) Holistic efforts are being made under Atal Bhujal Yojana at individual, societal and systemic levels to bring about long term behavioural changes in community members to shift over to best practices for groundwater management. Intensive awareness programs and IEC activities are conducted at gram panchayat level to educate people on the consequences of over-extraction and benefits of conservation. The community is actively involved in water budgeting and preparation of Water Security Plans (WSP). Various water measurement equipment like water level sounder, water quality testing kit, rain gauge, water flow meters etc. are installed in the village and the community members are trained to operate them so as to have a demonstrative effect. In convergence with various schemes of state governments, incentives are provided for adopting crop diversification, efficient water use methods like Directly Seeded Rice (DSR), mulching, construction of polyhouse etc. which make shifting over to and adoption of practices for efficient water use easier and cost effective.
