

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1092**

ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

**EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER**

1092. DR. AMAR SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the country exploits more ground water than both the United States and China combined and India has four per cent of the world's total fresh-water reserves to meet the needs of our vast population; and
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government to revolutionise all aspects of our water usage, including daily use?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) & (b)** India is known to be one of the largest users of groundwater in the world and as per 'The United Nations World Water Development Report 2022 – GROUNDWATER Making the invisible visible' India is among top countries with the highest shares in global groundwater withdrawal in 2017.

As per the Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the year 2023, the annual extractable groundwater resource for the country has been assessed as 407.21 billion cubic meter (bcm) and the total annual groundwater extraction is assessed as 241.34 bcm. Based on this, the overall Stage of Extraction of ground water (SOE) is worked out to be 59.26%.

Water being a State subject, the issues related to development, regulation and management of water resources, including ground water, is primarily the responsibility of the state governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the state governments by providing technical support and financial assistance through its institutions and various centrally sponsored schemes.

Some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for having a better and more efficient water management system in the country are listed below: -

- i. National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, envisages evolving an agricultural system which economizes on water use and maximizes value from water. The policy which primarily focuses on avoiding water wastage, *inter-alia*, advocates reuse of urban water effluents from kitchens and bathrooms and incentivizing recovery of industrial pollutants for recycle / reuse. The Policy has been forwarded to all States/UTs concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.
- ii. Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) has been set up under MoJS to plan and execute nation-wide program for promotion of efficient use of water in irrigation, domestic water supply, municipal and/or

industrial uses in the country. The BWUE has also been tasked with prescribing guidelines for water conservation codes; Developing standards for water efficient fixtures, appliances, sanitary wares etc; Evolving a system of efficiency labeling/ blue labeling; Promote research and development in the field of water & capacity building in collaboration with states.

- iii. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under MoJS for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water abstraction. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 which have pan India applicability. As per the Guidelines, infrastructure projects drawing groundwater 20KLD or more are required to install STP and use the treated water for greenbelt development/ washing of cars etc. Further, industries abstracting ground water in excess of 100 KLD are required to undertake biennial water audit, which should recommend reduction in water consumption through recycle/ reuse.
- iv. Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to provide potable tap water supply of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country. Under JJM, for villages in water-scarce areas, in order to save the precious fresh water, States are being encouraged to plan new water supply scheme with dual piped water supply system, i.e. supply of fresh water in one and treated grey/ waste water in another pipe for non-potable/ gardening/ toilet flushing use.
- v. Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 which mainly focuses on effectively harvesting the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. JSA for the year 2023 have been launched by Hon'ble President of India on 04 March 2023 with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water".
- vi. Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has launched Atal Bhujal Yojana in 8213 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 7 states, which is a community led scheme for participatory ground water management focusing on demand side management of ground water. Under this scheme, inter alia, states are incentivized for adopting water efficient agricultural practices like switching over to drips/sprinklers, crop diversification to less water intensive crops, mulching etc.
- vii. In addition to the above, several other important measures have been taken by the Central Government for improving the water scenario in India, especially that of ground water and they can be seen at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>
- viii. Furthermore, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting such as 'Mukhyamantri Jal SwavlambanAbhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'JalyuktShibar' in Maharashtra, 'SujalamSufalamAbhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, NeeruChettu' in Andhra Pradesh, Jal JeevanHariyali in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana, and Kudimaramath scheme in Tamil Nadu etc.

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