

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 635**  
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021

**GROUND WATER CONDITION IN TAMIL NADU**

635. SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state the details of measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the ground water condition and check river pollution in the State of Tamil Nadu including Vellore district in particular?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation & water harvesting and abatement of river pollution in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are available at the following URL:[http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps\\_to\\_control\\_water\\_depletion\\_Feb2021.pdf](http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf).

In addition, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Of these, mention can be made of 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibar' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, 'Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' in Bihar, 'Jal Hi Jeevan' in Haryana, Kudimaramath scheme in Tamil Nadu among others.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions. In addition 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain' campaign has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 22 March 2021.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM), which envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of Ground Water Resources. The State-wise information is shared with States/Uts for implementation.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) is implementing the provisions of The Water (Prevention & Control) Act, 1974 & The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution.

It is the responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and local bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluent, before discharging into recipient water bodies, land or coastal waters for prevention and control of pollution therein. Central Government, through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), has been supplementing the efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of rivers excluding river Ganga and its tributaries. Different pollution abatement schemes admissible under NRCP include sewerage network, interception & diversion works, sewage treatment plants (STPs) etc.

Schemes costing Rs.908.13 Crores were sanctioned under NRCP for conservation of six rivers in Tamil Nadu namely Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vaigai, Vennar, and Tamrabarani for 13 towns namely Bhiwani, Chennai, Erode, Karur, Kumaapalayam, Kumbakonam, Madurai Mayiladuthurai, Palliapalayam, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Trichirappalli and Trichy. These schemes included setting up STPs of total capacity 477.66 million litres per day for treatment of municipal sewage. Further, no works in Vellore district have been taken up under NRCP.

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