

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO – 2003
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28/07/2022

RECHARGE OF GROUND-WATER

2003.DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the schemes relating to supply of water in rural areas under Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Jal Yojana) are based on ground water and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether ground water level has been continuously depleting rapidly all over the country;
- (c) if so, the scheme of the Government to recharge the water level of tubewells/borings in such a condition;
- (d) whether adequate provision of funds have been made for this purpose under this scheme; and
- (e) if so, the provision made to develop sources of ground water for permanent solution to the problem of drinking water?

ANSWER

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

(a) Since August, 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States/ UTs, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for making provision of tap water connection to every rural household by 2024. Drinking Water is a State subject and accordingly the responsibility to plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes lies with States/ UTs. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States/ UTs by providing technical and financial assistance.

As per the Operational Guidelines for JJM, States/UTs may take up both ground-water & surface-water based schemes based on availability of water both in terms of quantity & quality as per local conditions.

Jal Jeevan Mission is still an ongoing scheme. However, at present, more number of ground water based schemes vis-à-vis surface water based schemes are reported to be taken up by States/UTs for providing tap water connections under JJM.

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the country including urban areas on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. In order to assess the long-term fluctuation in ground water level, the water level data collected by CGWB during November 2021 has been compared with the decadal mean of November (2011-2020). Analysis of water level data indicates that about 30% of the wells monitored have registered decline in ground water level whereas, about 70 % wells have registered rise in water level.

(c) Water being a State subject, Water Management including regulation of ground water to control depletion, recharging ground water, etc. are primarily the responsibility of the respective State Government. The Central Government facilitates the efforts taken by State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance.

However, the projects taken up by the CGWB under Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWM&R) scheme for recharging ground water in the Country are as follows :-

- Artificial Recharge work in select Aspirational Districts was taken up by CGWB in the year 2018 and completed in 2020. Suitable structures were constructed to harvest the runoff water in stream to store at suitable locations for augmenting recharge to the ground water in 3 aspirational districts: Osmanabad, Maharashtra, YSR Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh and Jangaon district, Telangana. The structures constructed included check dams, percolation tanks, subsurface barrier, recharge wells and recharge shafts.
- CGWB took up a pilot project in the eastern region of Maharashtra covering districts of Wardha and Amravati at five locations for construction of Bridge cum Bandhara (BCB) for ground water recharge. The structures serve the dual purposes of transportation as well as storage of water in the upstream side for drinking and irrigation needs. The project commenced in the year of 2018 and was completed in 2020.
- During 2021-22, CGWB has taken up the project on 'Groundwater augmentation through artificial recharge in identified water stressed areas of Rajasthan, comprising Jodhpur, Jaisalmer & Sikar districts of Rajasthan. The structures include check dams, anicuts and recharge shaft with ponds. So far, Rs. 9.42 Cr. has been released by CGWB to WAPCOS for execution.

(d) GWM&R Scheme being a Central Sector Scheme, no funds are provided to the State Governments.

Under JJM, provision has been made to include borewell recharge structures, as part of the estimates for schemes based on groundwater sources. Further, there is a provision for recharge of ground water through convergence under various Central/ Centrally sponsored/ State Schemes.

Further, 15th Finance Commission has recommended an allocation of Rs. 2,36,805 Crore to rural local bodies (RLBs) for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26, out of which, 40% of the recommended grant is basic grant (untied) and the remaining 60% is tied grant for a.) drinking water, rainwater harvesting, water recycling, and b.) sanitation & maintenance of the ODF status. Rural local bodies can use the tied grants on drinking water and sanitation related activities independently and/or in convergence with the funds available under various schemes of Central and State Governments for water conservation, groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, greywater management, etc. with the aim to achieve, inter alia, water security.

(e) Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by CGWB in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. DPR has to be prepared by the concerned line department at an implementable level like any other water supply project or city development project. Implementation has to be done through existing schemes only and no separate scheme/fund has been envisaged for implementation.

The other important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management in the country are available 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%20depletion%20july2022.pdf)
