GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1774

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION

1774. SHRI RAJESH VERMA DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE
SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE SMT. SHAMBHAVI

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

(a) the details of the budget allocated and utilised for implementing the projects concerning the groundwater conservation;

(b) the details of the groundwater that got polluted during the last five years, State/UT-wise;

(c) the list of the States that were the winners of the National Water Awards during the last five years since its inception, category-wise;

(d) the details of the schemes and strategies of the Government for reduction of groundwater depletion in the country along with the percentage in reduction of groundwater depletion during the last five years; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure the monitoring and access to quality groundwater across the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 in a mission mode and as a time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2024 is being implemented in the country with special focus on 151 water stressed districts of the country. JSA is an umbrella campaign under which various ground water recharge and conservation related works are being taken up in convergence with various central and state schemes. As per the available information, since the inception of JSA, a total of around 1.57 cr. water conservation and rain water harvesting structures have been completed/ongoing in the country and an expenditure of Rs. 1.15 lakh cr has been incurred though convergence with MGNREGS alone.

In addition to JSA, the central government provides funds for ground water conservation activities under its various flagship programmes and schemes like Atal Bhujal Yojana, PMKSY-WDC, GWM &R Scheme etc.

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. These studies indicate the occurrence of contaminants such as Flouride, Arsenic, Nitrate, Iron and heavy metals beyond

permissible limits (as per BIS) for human consumption in isolated pockets of some of the districts in various States / UTs.

Since ground water quality improvement as well as contamination are continuous processes the latest picture of ground water quality for the entire country, with the state-wise number of the districts affected by major ground water contaminants as in 2022-23 is given in **Annexure-I**.

(c) The list of winners of National Water Awards under 'Best State' category since 2018 is provided at **Annexure-II.**

(d) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. However, the Central Government facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. In this direction, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries for sustainable development of ground water resources in the country are given below:-

i. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme, under which activities related to exploration, monitoring, assessment and management of ground water resources including groundwater conservation/ artificial recharge interventions are carried out across the country.

ii. CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme(NAQUIM) with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization. Entire mappable area of the country of around 25 lakh sq. km, has been mapped under the scheme and management plans have been shared with the respective State governments for implementation.

iii. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB and shared with States/UTs providing a broad outline for construction of around 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country with estimated cost.

iv. MoJS is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, which is a community led scheme for participatory ground water management focusing on demand side management of ground water in 80 water stressed districts in 7 States.

v. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Government of India which aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies in each district of the country. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country.

vi. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA in the country by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020.

vii. Details of several other significant initiatives of the Government of India for improvement of groundwater situation in the country can be seen through the link below- https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/document/steps-taken-by-the-central-government-to-control-water-depletion-and-promote-rain-water-harvesting-conservation/

As a result of such consistent and cumulative efforts, total Extractable Ground water in the country has gone up from 392.7 BCM in 2017 to 407.21 BCM in 2023.

(e) CGWB conducts ground water quality monitoring for several contaminants on a regular basis throughout the country and also generates ground water quality data on a regional scale during various scientific studies. Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are made available in public domain through reports as well as through the web site (http://www.cgwb.gov.in) for use by various stakeholders.

Further, to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis to every rural household by 2024, since August, 2019, Government of India in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal. Under the JJM, Bureau of Indian Standards' BIS:10500 standards have been adopted as prescribed norms for quality of tap water service delivery. Water safety has been one of the key priorities under the JJM since its inception.

Further, under JJM, a vast network of more than 2000 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country. Besides this, five persons, preferably women, are identified and trained from every village for testing the water samples through Field Test Kits (FTKs). To enable States/ UTs to test water samples for water quality, and for sample collection, reporting, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources, an online JJM – Water Quality Management Information System (WQMIS) portal has been developed.

***

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1774 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2024 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION".

State Wise Number of Partly Affected Districts (cumulative) with different major Contaminants in Ground Water of India in 2022-23

S. No.	State/ UT	Salinity (EC above 3000 micro mhos/ cm) (EC : Electrical Conductivity)	Fluoride (above 1.5 mg/l)	Nitrate (above 45 mg/l)	Arsenic (above 0.01 mg/l)	Iron (above 1mg/l)
1	Andhra Pradesh	23	19	26	7	12
2	Telangana	16	29	32	1	9
3	Assam	1	17		21	29
4	Arunachal Pradesh					7
5	Bihar	7	19	32	27	35
6	Chhattisgarh	1	23	24	4	23
7	Delhi	8	8	11	5	5
8	Goa					2
9	Gujarat	28	30	32	12	14
10	Haryana	18	21	21	18	20
11	Himachal Pradesh		2	7	1	5
12	Jammu & Kashmir		4	10	3	10
13	Jharkhand		17	23	4	23
14	Karnataka	30	31	30	3	22
15	Kerala	4	6	14	1	14
16	Madhya Pradesh	21	44	51	9	47
17	Maharashtra	29	22	31		24
18	Manipur		1		2	4
19	Meghalaya		5			8
20	Nagaland		3			5
21	Odisha	18	26	32	5	31
22	Punjab	12	19	23	17	19
23	Rajasthan	32	33	33	10	33
24	Tamil Nadu	29	30	33	14	16
25	Tripura		3		3	8
26	Uttar Pradesh	21	43	67	45	75
27	Uttarakhand	1	1	5	5	8
28	West Bengal	9	12	18	11	22
29	Andaman & Nicobar	1				3
30	Daman & Diu	1	1	2	1	
31	Puducherry			2	1	
	Total	**Parts of 310 districts in 21 states & UTs**	**Parts of 469 districts in 27 states & UTs**	**Parts of 559 districts in 23 states & UTs**	**Parts of 230 districts in 25 states & UTs**	**Parts of 533 districts in 29 states & UTs**

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1774 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2024 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION".

The list of the States that were the winners of the National Water Awards during the last five years since its inception, category-wise.

Sl. No.	Name of Awardees	Name of Category/State	Rank
1st National Water Awards-2018			
1	Maharashtra	Best State	1st Rank
2	Gujarat		2nd Rank
3	Andhra Pradesh		3rd Rank
2nd National Water Awards-2019			
4	Tamil Nadu	Best State	1st Rank
5	Maharashtra		2nd Rank
6	Rajasthan		3rd Rank
3rd National Water Awards-2020			
7	Uttar Pradesh	Best State	1st Rank
8	Rajasthan		2nd Rank
9	Tamil Nadu		3rd Rank
4th National Water Awards-2022			
10	Madhya Pradesh	Best State	1st Rank
11	Odisha		2nd Rank
12	Andhra Pradesh		3rd Rank (Joint Winner)
13	Bihar		3rd Rank (Joint Winner)
5th National Water Awards-2023			
14	Odisha		1st Rank
15	Uttar Pradesh		2nd Rank
16	Puducherry		3rd Rank (Joint Winner)
17	Gujarat		3rd Rank (Joint Winner)

F.N.- No awards were given in 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic

*****