

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1819

ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

PER CAPITA WATER AVAILABILITY

1819. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that per capita water availability in the country is declining as a result of the rise in population and if so, the details of likely per capita water availability by 2030, yearwise;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the per capita water availability and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce groundwater dependency along with the funds allocated and utilised for the same during the last five years and the current year?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydrometeorological and geological factors, however, water availability per person is dependent on population of a country. The per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. Based on the study titled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019” conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1486 cubic meter and 1367 cubic meter respectively.

(b) & (c) 'Water' being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources which positively impact over the issue of per capita water availability are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India, in partnership with State, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since August, 2019 to make provision of tap water supply to every rural household of the country. At the time of announcement of the Mission, only 3.23 Crore (17%) rural households had tap water supply. Since the launch of the Mission, more than 12.09 Crore have been provided with tap water connection and as on 03.12.2024. Thus, out of 19.34 Crore rural household, around 15.33 Crore (79.24%) rural households are presently getting tap water supply.

Government of India has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in 2015 which focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure especially water supply & access to tap connection to every household in 500 cities. So far 1,390 projects worth ₹ 43,241.8 crore have been grounded including 1,180 completed projects worth ₹ 29,310 crore. Through these projects & in convergence with other programmes, 189 lakh household water tap connections have been provided.

Taking it forward, AMRUT 2.0 has been launched in 2021 which covers all the statutory towns of the country to ensure universal coverage of water supply & make cities 'water secure'. For availability of quality water supply, so far, 3,596 water supply projects worth ₹ 1,14,073.65 crore (including O&M) have been approved by Apex Committee at Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

To ensure optimum utilization of water, Government of India has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) from 2015-16 onwards. Under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), 99 ongoing major/medium irrigation projects were prioritized during 2016-17, in consultation with States. Out of these projects, AIBP works of 62 prioritized projects have been reported to be completed. An additional irrigation potential of 25.80 lakh hectare has been reported to be created by these projects in the country, during 2016-17 to 2023-2024. The extension of PMKSY for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been approved by Government of India, with an overall outlay of Rs. 93,068.56 crore. The scheme of Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies are being implemented under PMKSY-HKPP.

The Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April, 2022 as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav with an objective to conserve water for future. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan-I (JSA-I) was conducted in 2019 in 1592 blocks out of 2836 blocks in 256 water stressed districts of the country and was expanded as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) in 2021 with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country. Now, the fifth edition of JSA: CTR 2024 has been launched on March 9, 2024 across the country. Following water related works/ afforestation works have been completed/ ongoing during the JSA: CTR 2024.

Water related works across the country in JSA: CTR 2024	
Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting Structures	8,70,757
Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies	2,13,586
Reuse and Recharge Structures	3,59,188
Watershed Development	13,85,664
Intensive Afforestation	5,46,37,190
No. of districts where Jal Shakti Kendra has been established	700
No. of Districts that have prepared water conservation plan	614

The Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) has been set up for promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sector. The Bureau will be a facilitator for

promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, etc. in the country.

Central Ground Water Board is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the Country on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. In order to assess the decline in water level on a long-term basis, the water level data collected by CGWB during November 2023 has been compared with the decadal average (2013-2022). Analysis of water level data indicates that about 51.70% of the wells monitored have registered rise in ground water levels. The rise in ground water level is the cumulative effect of the both Central and State Governments initiatives.

Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme in identified water stressed areas of 8203 Gram Panchayats under 229 blocks in 80 districts of Seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh with an aim to arrest decline in ground water level through community led sustainable groundwater management. Allocation and utilisation of funds for Atal Bhujal Yojana since its inception is as given below:

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Financial Year	Funds Allocated	Funds Utilized
2020-21	125	123.03
2021-22	330	327.48
2022-23	700	637.64
2023-24	1774.57	1738.21
2024-25	1778	71.24 (Till 25.11.2024)

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. CGWA grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects in feasible areas in certain States/UTs where regulation is not being done by the respective State/UTs. CGWA also issues notifications and directions to State Governments and the Administrators of the UTs to adopt Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (RTRWH) in all the 'Critical' and 'Over-exploited' assessment units (blocks / Taluks / Firkas / Districts / Valley / Islands / Region / Tehsil, etc. in the country and in all the Government buildings under their jurisdiction.

Important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for Water conservation, Control and regulation of ground water and to promote rainwater harvesting / artificial recharge/ water use efficiency etc. can be seen at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>
