GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

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

(a) the current status of groundwater levels across various regions in the country, particularly in Rajasthan including Tonk-Sawai Madhopur districts highlighting areas experiencing significant depletion;

(b) the specific measures implemented/being implemented by the Government during 2024 to address the issue of groundwater depletion including the outcomes of initiatives like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and the 'Catch the Rain' campaign;

(c) the key challenges faced in implementing these water conservation initiatives, particularly in the regions with severe water scarcity in the country including Rajasthan;

(d) the steps taken/being taken to promote community participation and to spread awareness in groundwater conservation efforts; and

(e) the details of collaborations established with the State Governments, non-governmental organisations/international bodies and other stake holders to enhance the effectiveness of water conservation strategies?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country on a regional scale including Rajasthan, four times in every year. The state-wise water level measured for the Month of November 2023 for the country shows that about 84.8% of the wells across the country record the water level data within the range of 0-10 meters below ground level (mbgl), indicating ease of access to ground water. State-wise distribution of depth to Water Level for November 2023 for the whole country is presented in **Annexure I.**

In the state of Rajasthan, 37% of the monitored wells have recorded water levels in the 0-10 mbgl range and for the Districts of Tonk and Sawai Madhopur, wells in the said range are 78.2% and 52.9% respectively. District-wise distribution of depth to Water Level for November 2023 in respect of the State of Rajasthan is presented in **Annexure II.**

(b) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. 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 in 2024 are given below:-

i. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 in which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2024 is being implemented in the country with the theme 'Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti' 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. Coming to outcomes, construction of a total of around 1.05 cr water conservation and rain water harvesting structures has been completed under JSA since 2019 and in 2024 alone around 18.86 lakh structures have been completed so far (from March 2024) with 1.14 lakh structures in Rajasthan.

ii. CGWB has completed the mapping of the entire mappable area of the country of around 25 lakh sq. km under its National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme(NAQUIM) with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization. District-wise management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State governments for implementation. Taking it forward, CGWB is conducting NAQUIM 2.0 studies in 2024 for detailed mapping with much higher granularity in identified priority areas like water stressed areas, areas affected with ground water contamination, coastal areas, urban agglomerates, spring sheds, industrial clusters etc.

iii. Government of India is continuing to fund various water conservation and ground water recharge activities under its flagship schemes like MGNREGS and PMKSY-WDC. In convergence with these schemes, 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.

(c) The key challenges faced in implementation of water conservation initiatives, *inter alia,* include local land right and ownership issues, lack of appropriate information at the field level, non-availability of sufficient pool of skilled personnel at the grassroots level; Insufficient coordination among various agencies and stakeholders; Winning community trust and their dedicated co-operation; Insufficient institutional capacities at State and local Level; Lack of attention to operation and maintenance activities post construction work etc.

(d) Since no water conservation activity can be sustained over long term without ensuring community participation, the central government has taken several important steps to make ground water management a truly peoples' movement.

i. The government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana in 80 water stressed districts across 7 states. The scheme has community led sustainable management of ground water resources and demand management as its core theme and through sustained information, education, communication (IEC) and awareness activities, it aims at ensuring active community involvement and to bring about behavioural change in people.

ii. Central Ground Water Board organizes various Public Interaction Programs (PIP), Mass Awareness Programs (MAP), Tier II and Tier –III programmes on local ground water issues, wherein the local public is made aware of rainwater harvesting techniques and conservation of water harvesting structures.

iii. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 under which Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) are being set up in every district of the country which act as knowledge centers for disseminating information related to water issues.

iv. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on September 6, 2024, in Surat, Gujarat with a vision to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. By promoting community ownership and responsibility, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.

(e) To enhance the effectiveness of water conservation strategies, the Ministry of Jal Shakti and its organizations, work with a very large number of Non-Governmental Organizations and academic institutions to promote public awareness and for enhancing water resource management in the country. Notably, the Ministry has entered into several MoUs with NGOs working at the grassroots level like Rotary India Water Conservation Trust, International Water Management Institute, Foundation for Ecological Security etc. Additionally, under Atal Bhujal Yojana, several NGOs have been roped in as District Implementation Partners(DIPs) who act as a bridge between the government agencies and the community in implementation of the scheme.

Further, International organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) etc are associated with the Ministry in various capacities aimed at improving water resource management.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES".

State-wise Depth to Water Level Distribution of Percentage of Observation Wells Post-Monsoon 2023 (Unconfined Aquifers)

SN	State Name	No of well analysed	No./Percentage of Wells Showing Depth to Water Level (mbgl) in the Range of											
			0 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 20		20 to 40		> 40	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Andhra Pradesh	809	109	13.5	382	47.2	241	29.8	54	6.7	16	2.0	7	0.9
2	Arunachal Pradesh	28	12	42.9	8	28.6	7	25.0	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
3	Assam	318	125	39.3	156	49.1	30	9.4	6	1.9	1	0.3	0	0.0
4	Bihar	784	116	14.8	525	67.0	139	17.7	4	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
5	Chhattisgarh	1046	172	16.4	628	60.0	228	21.8	16	1.5	2	0.2	0	0.0
6	Goa	82	17	20.7	38	46.3	21	25.6	6	7.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
7	Gujarat	753	105	13.9	305	40.5	215	28.6	96	12.7	26	3.5	6	0.8
8	Haryana	985	71	7.2	160	16.2	154	15.6	198	20.1	253	25.7	149	15.1
9	Himachal Pradesh	171	30	17.5	69	40.4	30	17.5	26	15.2	12	7.0	4	2.3
10	Jharkhand	396	51	12.9	216	54.5	114	28.8	8	2.0	7	1.8	0	0.0
11	Karnataka	1264	228	18.0	504	39.9	454	35.9	75	5.9	3	0.2	0	0.0
12	Kerala	1377	323	23.5	477	34.6	485	35.2	85	6.2	5	0.4	2	0.1
13	Madhya Pradesh	1470	151	10.3	654	44.5	501	34.1	147	10.0	12	0.8	5	0.3
14	Maharashtra	1658	248	15.0	706	42.6	526	31.7	141	8.5	32	1.9	5	0.3
15	Meghalaya	51	23	45.1	27	52.9	1	2.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
16	Mizoram	2	2	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
17	Nagaland	10	0	0.0	6	60.0	3	30.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
18	Odisha	1370	528	38.5	694	50.7	142	10.4	6	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
19	Punjab	283	29	10.2	55	19.4	34	12.0	65	23.0	81	28.6	19	6.7
20	**Rajasthan**	**1061**	**27**	**2.5**	**171**	**16.1**	**195**	**18.4**	**234**	**22.1**	**194**	**18.3**	**240**	**22.6**
21	Tamil Nadu	857	186	21.7	359	41.9	239	27.9	60	7.0	11	1.3	2	0.2
22	Telangana	623	58	9.3	278	44.6	204	32.7	72	11.6	9	1.4	2	0.3
23	Tripura	96	26	27.1	57	59.4	13	13.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
24	Uttar Pradesh	1092	179	16.4	481	44.0	265	24.3	133	12.2	30	2.7	4	0.4
25	Uttarakhand	171	17	9.9	48	28.1	35	20.5	31	18.1	25	14.6	15	8.8
26	West Bengal	736	224	30.4	413	56.1	85	11.5	14	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
27	Andaman & Nicobar	111	103	92.8	8	7.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28	Chandigarh	14	0	0.0	5	35.7	2	14.3	2	14.3	4	28.6	1	7.1
29	Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30	7	23.3	17	56.7	6	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
30	Delhi	119	9	7.6	30	25.2	39	32.8	26	21.8	11	9.2	4	3.4
31	Jammu & Kashmir	385	96	24.9	173	44.9	59	15.3	27	7.0	21	5.5	9	2.3
32	Puducherry	9	2	22.2	5	55.6	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Total	**18161**	**3274**	**18.0**	**7655**	**42.2**	**4469**	**24.6**	**1534**	**8.4**	**755**	**4.2**	**474**	**2.6**

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2863 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 12.12.2024 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER DEPLETION AND WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES".

District-wise Depth to Water Level Distribution of Percentage of Observation Wells Post-Monsoon 2023 (Unconfined Aquifers)

SN	District Name	No Of Well Analysed	No./Percentage of Wells Showing Depth to Water Level (mbgl) in the Range of											
			0 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 20		20 to 40		> 40	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Ajmer	17	0	0.0	8	47.1	3	17.6	1	5.9	5	29.4	0	0.0
2	Alwar	19	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	5.3	5	26.3	7	36.8	6	31.6
3	Anupgarh	5	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
4	Balotra	9	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	22.2	2	22.2	5	55.6	0	0.0
5	Banswara	33	1	3.0	14	42.4	13	39.4	5	15.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
6	Baran	14	1	7.1	6	42.9	6	42.9	1	7.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
7	Barmer	34	0	0.0	1	2.9	4	11.8	6	17.6	12	35.3	11	32.4
8	Beawar	11	0	0.0	2	18.2	4	36.4	4	36.4	1	9.1	0	0.0
9	Bharatpur	19	1	5.3	2	10.5	4	21.1	4	21.1	4	21.1	4	21.1
10	Bhilwara	50	0	0.0	15	30.0	10	20.0	19	38.0	5	10.0	1	2.0
11	Bikaner	40	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	10.0	13	32.5	12	30.0	11	27.5
12	Bundi	10	1	10.0	4	40.0	4	40.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
13	Chittorgarh	14	3	21.4	0	0.0	4	28.6	5	35.7	2	14.3	0	0.0
14	Churu	27	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.7	5	18.5	13	48.1	8	29.6
15	Dausa	30	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.3	14	46.7	5	16.7	10	33.3
16	Deeg	9	0	0.0	2	22.2	3	33.3	3	33.3	1	11.1	0	0.0
17	Dholpur	19	0	0.0	7	36.8	3	15.8	3	15.8	5	26.3	1	5.3
18	Didwana Kuchaman	19	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	31.6	8	42.1	5	26.3
19	Dudu	24	1	4.2	8	33.3	10	41.7	4	16.7	1	4.2	0	0.0
20	Dungarpur	17	1	5.9	7	41.2	8	47.1	1	5.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
21	Ganganagar	31	0	0.0	2	6.5	8	25.8	13	41.9	6	19.4	2	6.5
22	Gangapurcity	12	0	0.0	4	33.3	2	16.7	5	41.7	0	0.0	1	8.3
23	Hanumangarh	31	2	6.5	0	0.0	1	3.2	11	35.5	14	45.2	3	9.7
24	Jaipur	13	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	7.7	1	7.7	2	15.4	8	61.5
25	Jaipur (Gramin)	73	0	0.0	2	2.7	8	11.0	11	15.1	12	16.4	40	54.8
26	Jaisalmer	55	0	0.0	1	1.8	6	10.9	11	20.0	22	40.0	15	27.3
27	Jalore	6	0	0.0	1	16.7	1	16.7	1	16.7	1	16.7	2	33.3
28	Jhalawar	24	0	0.0	6	25.0	13	54.2	5	20.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
29	Jhunjhunu	23	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	8.7	21	91.3
30	Jodhpur	7	0	0.0	2	28.6	1	14.3	2	28.6	1	14.3	1	14.3
31	Jodhpur(Gramin)	48	0	0.0	8	16.7	5	10.4	12	25.0	8	16.7	15	31.3
32	Karauli	27	1	3.7	2	7.4	4	14.8	7	25.9	11	40.7	2	7.4
33	Kekri	7	0	0.0	2	28.6	3	42.9	2	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
34	Khairthal-Tijara	8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	62.5	3	37.5
35	Kota	16	3	18.8	4	25.0	4	25.0	3	18.8	2	12.5	0	0.0
36	Kotputli-Behror	14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	28.6	10	71.4
37	Nagaur	20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	20.0	2	10.0	14	70.0
38	Neem Ka Thana	3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	33.3	0	0.0	1	33.3	1	33.3

39	Pali	18	2	11.1	7	38.9	6	33.3	3	16.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
40	Phalodi	13	0	0.0	1	7.7	1	7.7	1	7.7	0	0.0	10	76.9
41	Pratapgarh	15	3	20.0	4	26.7	5	33.3	3	20.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
42	Rajsamand	27	1	3.7	14	51.9	6	22.2	6	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
43	Salumbar	10	2	20.0	3	30.0	2	20.0	3	30.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
44	Sanchore	9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	22.2	3	33.3	4	44.4
45	SawaiMadhopur	17	0	0.0	3	17.6	6	35.3	6	35.3	1	5.9	1	5.9
46	Shahpura	12	1	8.3	4	33.3	4	33.3	3	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
47	Sikar	41	0	0.0	1	2.4	0	0.0	1	2.4	9	22.0	30	73.2
48	Sirohi	13	0	0.0	4	30.8	5	38.5	4	30.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
49	Tonk	23	0	0.0	9	39.1	9	39.1	3	13.0	2	8.7	0	0.0
50	Udaipur	25	3	12.0	10	40.0	6	24.0	6	24.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Total	**1061**	**27**	**2.5**	**171**	**16.1**	**195**	**18.4**	**234**	**22.1**	**194**	**18.3**	**240**	**22.6**

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