

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4078**

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**OVER-EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER**

4078. SHRI ADITYA YADAV

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the country has just four per cent of the world's freshwater resources and the groundwater is heavily over-exploited, far beyond the volumes of annual recharge and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to develop and maintain the systems for groundwater recharge keeping in mind that the country accounts for a quarter of global groundwater usage i.e. an amount that exceeds the combined total usage of China and the United States of America (USA)?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) The government is cognizant of the fact that India is one of the largest users of groundwater in the world and that the country has roughly 4% of the world's fresh water reserves to cater to the needs of its population which is around 17% of the world's total.

As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report for the year 2023, total annual ground water recharge has been assessed at 449 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM), the total annual extractable groundwater resource for the country is estimated as 407.21 BCM and the total annual groundwater extraction for all purposes stands at 241.34 BCM. Further, on comparing the resource assessment report of 2023 with that of 2017, it emerges that the share of 'Safe' Assessment Units (AUs) in the country has increased from 62.6% to 73.1% while that of 'Over-Exploited' Units has reduced from 17.2% to 11.2% in the said period.

- (b) Water being a State subject, the issues related to development, regulation and management of water resources, including ground water, are primarily the responsibilities of the state governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the state governments by providing technical support and financial assistance through its institutions and various centrally sponsored schemes. Some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for water conservation and to improve ground water recharge in the country are listed below: -

- i. National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which, *inter-alia*, calls for rainwater harvesting and conservation of water, mapping the

- aquifers of the country, proper regulation of extraction by setting up regulatory authorities and integrated development of surface and ground water.
- ii. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 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 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.
  - iii. 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. The plans comprise of recommendations for demand management as well as construction of artificial recharge structures.
  - iv. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB for the entire country 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 to harness 185 BCM (Billion cubic meter) of water.
  - v. 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. Construction of various rain water harvesting and recharge structures like check dams, ponds, shafts etc. are incentivized under the scheme.
  - vi. 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.
  - 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/>
  - viii. In addition, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Some of them can be mentioned as ‘Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan’ in Rajasthan, ‘Jalyukt Shivar’ 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 etc.

\*\*\*\*\*