

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 551

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN JHANSI DISTRICT

551. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA

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

- (a) the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government including community engagement strategies, conservation efforts and monitoring mechanism under the Atal Bhujal Yojana in Jhansi district in Uttar Pradesh keeping in view the challenges faced due to depleting groundwater in the Bundelkhand region including Jhansi district;
- (b) the impact of the measures taken regarding the groundwater table and water management practices in the said region; and
- (c) the details of the budget allocation and utilisation under the said Yojana in Uttar Pradesh with an emphasis on Bundelkhand?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

- (a) The following measures are taken under Atal Bhujal Yojana in Jhansi district, Uttar Pradesh:
 - i. In Jhansi district, Atal Bhujal Yojana is being implemented in **31 water-stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs)** of Mauranipur (16 GPs) and Babina block (15 GPs).
 - ii. To monitor the Ground water scenario, a piezometer equipped with a Digital Water Level Recorder (**DWLR**) have been installed in all the above selected 31 GPs under Atal Bhujal Yojana.
 - iii. GP-level trainings have been conducted in the aforementioned 31 GPs to raise awareness among citizens about groundwater conservation and sustainable management. Trainings also impart the required know-how of water conservation and water saving through demand side management of groundwater that can be done at community level. In the past four years, Atal Bhujal Yojana has successfully organized 369 GP-level trainings, 13 block-level trainings, and 4 district-level trainings in Jhansi. Conducting trainings is a continuous activity under Atal Bhujal Yojana for building the capacity of all stakeholders with diversified objectives.

- iv. Additionally, Atal Jal Shakti Yatra and Jal Kosh Yatra were organized during the year 2023 & 2024 to raise awareness and promote water conservation initiatives throughout the region. Also, a digital Bhujal Rath campaign was organized in all Atal Jal GPs in the year 2022 depicting audio & visual messages for water conservation, in addition to various other IEC activities.
- v. A total of 1,688 hectares (as on March 2024) across the 31 GPs have been brought under efficient water use practices, including micro-irrigation, underground pipeline installation, mulching, and crop diversification, as part of the Atal Bhujal Yojana.
- vi. Water conservation works, which include construction of new ponds, rejuvenation of old ponds, check-dams, gully plugs, roof top rainwater harvesting structures, farm ponds, soak pits, blast wells, contour trenches, nala development, micro irrigation etc. amounting to Rs. 9.48 crore (as on March 2024) have been completed in Atal Bhujal Yojana's GPs of Jhansi district through convergence of various State and Central Government schemes.

(b) As per the observed trend of groundwater levels over the last five years, district Jhansi has shown gradual improvement in groundwater level, as a result of various factors including measures taken for participatory water management under Atal Bhujal Yojana.

(c) The Atal Bhujal Yojana has two components, viz. (i) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building (IS&CB) Component, aimed at strengthening the groundwater governance mechanism in the participating States, and (ii) Incentive Component, aimed at rewarding/incentivizing the States for various measures aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources. Tentative allocation, amount released and expenditure so far (as on 21.11.2024) under the Atal Bhujal Yojana for the State of Uttar Pradesh is as below:

(all figures in Rs. Crore)

Total Tentative Allocation during the Scheme			Amount released so far			Expenditure so far		
IS&CB	Incentive	Total	IS&CB	Incentive	Total	IS&CB	Incentive	Total
119.28	609.96	729.24	47.59	150.94	198.53	47.56	109.16	156.72

For the Bundelkhand region (i.e. 6 districts viz. Jhansi, Lalitpur, Banda, Hamirpur, Chitrakoot and Mahoba), an incentive fund of Rs. 98.92 Cr have been allocated under Atal Bhujal Yojana and an expenditure of Rs. 69.98 Cr has been incurred, till date.
