

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *292

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

COMMUNITY-BASED GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

***292. SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR**

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

- (a) the specific initiatives taken to address the groundwater depletion in Karnataka;
- (b) whether any community-based groundwater management practices have been implemented in Mysuru district and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there are any plans to construct recharge wells and check dams in Kodagu's hilly terrain and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

- (a) to (c) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *292 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “COMMUNITY-BASED GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES”

(a) Water being a State subject, the responsibility of addressing the ground water related issues lies primarily with the concerned 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 improvement of ground water resources of the country, including for the state of Karnataka, are given below:-

- The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country, including Karnataka, since 2019 which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. 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.
- Central Ground Water Board (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, including 1.91 lakh sq. km of Karnataka, has been mapped under the scheme and district-wise ground water management plans, containing both demand and supply side measures, have been shared with the respective State/District administrations for implementation.
- Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB for the entire country, including Karnataka 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. For Karnataka, the Master plan recommends around 61,225 structures.
- M/o Jal Shakti 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, 14 districts of Karnataka being among them.
- Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop Scheme in the country, including Karnataka, since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. As a result an area of 13.30 lakh Hectares in Karnataka has been brought under micro-irrigation in the last 5 years, i.e. 2019 to 2024.
- M/o Jal Shakti has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs including Karnataka have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

- A total of 93 Public Interaction Programmes (PIPs) and 50 Tier-II & Tier -III trainings have been organized so far by CGWB in various parts of Karnataka to promote awareness on groundwater among public.

(b) The central government has taken several important steps to ensure large scale community participation for turning ground water management into a truly peoples' movement in the country. Some of the important measures, which also cover the state of Karnataka and especially the district of Mysuru, are mentioned below :

- Ground water conservation through awareness generation is a key focus area of the JSA campaign. JSA 2024 is being implemented in the entire country, including Mysuru. Further, Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have also been established in several districts of the country, including Mysuru, which act as knowledge centers for interacting with common people. JSKs are disseminating information related to water related issues such as water conservation methods, policies on ground water, efficient irrigation techniques, water quality etc., thus ensuring large-scale community mobilization for the cause of sustainable ground water management.
- Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, which marks the government's unwavering resolve to make water conservation a national priority. The initiative emphasizes the importance of Jan Bhagidari or peoples' participation in water conservation with the aim to have a special focus on the construction of artificial recharge structures/borewell recharge shafts, which will increase storage capacity & help to augment groundwater recharge. Thus far, a total of 404 ground water recharge structures have been constructed in Mysuru district.
- 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 for the purpose of increasing water storage and boosting ground water recharge. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with active community participation, with 152 in Mysuru district.

(c) As per the Master plan for artificial recharge to ground water prepared by CGWB, in Kodagu district, it was recommended to construct 4 sub-surface dykes, 145 percolation tanks, 815 check dams and 21 filter beds to recharge around 120.5 million cubic metre (MCM) of water. The Master Plan has been shared with State Govt. agencies for planning and implementation at appropriate level as taking up such construction falls under the purview of state government.

Additionally, as per JSA dashboard, 15,021 number of water conservation and rain water harvesting structures, including check dams (221), recharge wells, percolation tanks etc. have been constructed/renovated in Kodagu district in the past 4 years.
