

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1481

ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE STRUCTURES UNDER JSA:CTR

1481. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific strategies implemented/being implemented by the Government to ensure effective inter-sectoral convergence among Ministries for constructing artificial recharge structures under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain (JSA:CTR) initiative;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is planning to engage local communities in implementing the said initiative to promote sustainable water management practices and ensure long-term maintenance of recharge structures;
- (c) the measures undertaken/being undertaken by the Government to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of artificial recharge structures in improving groundwater levels along with the way in which these findings are integrated into future planning;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to train local authorities and stakeholders for effective implementation and awareness generation under the campaign; and
- (e) the details of specific provisions for leveraging technology such as GIS mapping and IoT-based monitoring to enhance the impact of artificial recharge structures?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Water is a State subject and the Central Government supplements the efforts of States/UTs through technical and financial assistance including creation of artificial recharge structures. The Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign is a nationwide initiative implemented annually from March to November, focusing on water conservation, rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. The campaign emphasizes convergent financing and active community participation to ensure maximum impact. To achieve effective inter-sectoral convergence among Ministries for constructing artificial recharge structures, the Government has implemented a multi-pronged strategy that leverages collaboration, resource optimization and institutional coordination. A key component of this strategy is convergent resource mobilization, where funds from multiple flagship schemes are pooled to enhance synergy and maximize impact. These schemes include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop (a component of Pradhan Mantri

Krishi Sinchayi Yojana – PMKSY) and the 15th Finance Commission Grants, among others. This ensures that financial and technical resources from various ministries are effectively utilized for water conservation efforts.

Expanding on this vision, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative was launched on September 6, 2024, in Surat, Gujarat, in the virtual presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. JSJB aims to create one million low-cost recharge structures across urban and rural India, using a combination of scientific technology and traditional methods. The initiative promotes active participation and sustainable water management by involving local communities, industries, NGOs and government bodies. It's a public-private partnership model which draws funding from not only government schemes but also from mobilization of private finance like Industry - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Philanthropy, individual donors, crowdfunding etc for people's participation, ownership and sustainability. The states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar along with philanthropists and corporate entities have pledged their support to this initiative, ensuring a collaborative approach to addressing water security. Inspired by the success of this initiative under, the Government of Rajasthan has launched the "Karmabhumi se Matrabhumi" scheme, encouraging people to contribute to water conservation in their native regions.

To institutionalize coordination, Central Ministries Nodal Officers (CMNOs) have been nominated in each partner Ministry/Department to facilitate sustained inter-ministerial collaboration. Regular high-level meetings are convened to align priorities and enhance convergence. These include Secretary-level and meetings chaired by the Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission, to monitor implementation progress and ensure structured engagement across ministries. Additionally, the Government has encouraged Ministries to mainstream water conservation efforts within their respective programmes, ensuring that water security remains a cross-sectoral priority. Best practices and successful models from different sectors are shared to promote cross-learning and innovation in the implementation of artificial recharge structures. This whole-of-government approach ensures that JSA: CTR delivers sustainable and impactful water management solutions, reinforcing the nation's commitment to groundwater recharge and long-term water security.

Apart from above, Technical officers from Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Central Water Commission (CWC) are assigned to each district and municipal corporation to provide guidance, with four dedicated CGWB officers stationed at National Water Mission (NWM) to support States, Ministries, Industries and NGOs in implementation. Additionally, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and technical advisory documents have been prepared by CGWB in collaboration with NWM and widely disseminated through the JSA: CTR portal to assist stakeholders at all levels. Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities have also been undertaken to spread awareness about the initiative.

(c) The Government has undertaken several measures to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of water conservation structures including artificial recharge structures under JSA: CTR campaign in improving groundwater levels. Central Teams are deputed to conduct field visits to districts for direct interaction with local authorities on the implementation of the JSA: CTR campaign. These teams comprise Central Nodal Officers of the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director/Deputy Secretary and Technical Officers from key

water-related organizations such as the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). The field visits facilitate on-ground assessments of water conservation activities, including artificial recharge structures and also provide technical assistance.

To ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of the campaign, a JSA: CTR portal (jsactr.mowr.gov.in) has been developed as a central platform for data collection and analysis. The portal enables regular tracking of water conservation efforts including artificial recharge structures. The insights obtained from field visits and data monitoring through the JSA: CTR portal are crucial in refining strategies for future water conservation efforts. Similarly, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Dashboard, a digital platform is provided to stakeholders to onboard each constructed recharge structure with photograph, geo tag and other details. To strengthen monitoring, Nodal Officers from the (CGWB) and the Central Water Commission (CWC), in collaboration with District Nodal Officers, oversee implementation, ensuring timely updates and verification of data. These Nodal Officers have been entrusted with the task of test checking 1% recharge structures to ensure the data authenticity & also for capacity building/training of the concerned Districts/Corporations/ Nodal Officers. A dedicated cell is established in the National Water Mission for supporting & monitoring the activities of field officers of CWC/CGWB & Districts/Corporations. CWC and CGWB are entrusted to provide technical assistance for creation/renovation of artificial recharge structures.

Additionally, the dynamic groundwater resources of India undergo annual assessment through a collaborative effort involving State Governments and CGWB. These periodic assessments provide critical insights into groundwater replenishment, utilization trends and overall availability, aiding in informed decision-making for water resource management. District and State-level review mechanisms, along with capacity-building initiatives, ensure continuous monitoring and long-term sustainability. The Ground Water Resources Assessment by CGWB shows a significant rise in groundwater recharge due to sustained conservation efforts. Recharge from tanks, ponds and water conservation structures increased from 13.98 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) in 2017 to 25.34 BCM in 2024, reflecting the success of water conservation. While these gains highlight effective interventions by both State and Central Governments, groundwater level improvements are influenced by multiple factors, including rainfall and strategic water management practices.

(d) Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) all the States/UTs have been requested to set up Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) in all the districts of the country. JSKs have been established in 705 districts across the country. As knowledge centers, JSKs disseminate information on critical topics such as water conservation methods, water use efficiency, groundwater policies, efficient irrigation techniques, water quality and greywater management. They also serve as technical guidance centers, offering advice and support to local communities on these matters. Apart from above, from 2019 to date, 1,69,699 training programmes/kisan melas have been organised under JSA: CTR campaign. Additionally, NWM collaborated with concerned Ministries for broadcast of 'Just Junior' series on television, promotion of 'Mission LiFE', etc. NWM has also conducted 58 Water Talks, 46 Dialogues with Districts Magistrates and various other workshops/seminars to spread awareness

among public. Ministry of Jal Shakti collaborated with Ministry of Railways for vinyl wrapping of two of our nation's most iconic trains i.e. the Himsagar Express and the Kamakhya Express. These trains carried a vital message of water conservation, awareness, and community engagement.

Also, the Information Education Communication activities are undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to disseminate the message of water conservation among the people. The social media team of the Department regularly creates informative posts regarding the water conservation and highlights the programmes/schemes of the Ministry on social media handles of the Department. Further, press release on important events of Ministry is also shared regularly with Press Information Bureau (PIB).

(e) Under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign, implemented by the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, technology is being leveraged to enhance the impact of artificial recharge structures. One of the key interventions under JSA: CTR is the enumeration, geo-tagging and inventorization of water bodies to facilitate the preparation of scientific water conservation plans. District Magistrates and Collectors have been requested to enumerate water bodies using old revenue records, remote sensing data from the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to mark boundaries, geo-tag structures and integrate data from the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) and State Water Resources Information Systems. This approach enables the development of data-driven scientific conservation plans. As per the JSA: CTR portal (jsactr.mowr.gov.in), 619 districts have already prepared such plans. Additionally, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has implemented the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) programme under the Ground Water Management and Regulation scheme, utilizing GIS technology to map approximately 25 lakh square km of aquifers. These maps provide hydrogeological insights essential for groundwater recharge and sustainable water management.
