

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4483**

ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

**GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN PUNJAB**

4483. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

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

- (a) the current status of groundwater levels in Punjab;
- (b) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to address water depletion in the State;
- (c) the progress of river rejuvenation projects in Punjab; and
- (d) the long-term strategy prepared by the Government to ensure sustainable water management in the State?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country including the state of Punjab, four times in every year. The perusal of ground water level data measured during November 2024 data reveals that 42.5 % of monitored wells are showing water levels in the range of 0 – 10 meters below ground level (mbgl). Further, as per the National Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2024, total annual ground water recharge in Punjab is 19.19 Billion Cubic Meters(BCM) and total annual ground water extraction for all uses is 27.66 BCM.

(b) Water being a State subject, addressing water related issues, including taking steps for sustainable development of ground water resources, falls under the mandate of State governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. Some of the important steps taken by the Ministry to address ground water depletion in the country, including in the State of Punjab are given below:

- i. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country, including Punjab, since 2019 in which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2025 has been launched in the country, with a special focus on Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical districts (OCS districts), including those of Punjab. 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.

- ii. 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, with 50,368 sq. km in Punjab, under the scheme and management plans have been shared with the respective State governments for implementation.
- iii. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB 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 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of water. Master plan for the state of Punjab recommends construction of about 11 lakh structures to harness about 1200 MCM of rain-water.
- iv. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme in the country, including Punjab, 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 per the data available, an area of 15,173 Ha was covered under PDMC in Punjab up to Feb 2024.
- v. 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, including Punjab. As an outcome, nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with 1,450 in Punjab.

(c) Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State/UT Governments in addressing the challenges of pollution of rivers by providing financial and technical assistance in identified stretches of various rivers in the country (excluding river Ganga and its tributaries) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). In Punjab, pollution abatement of rivers, namely, Satluj, Beas, and Ghaggar, has been implemented, wherein various pollution abatement works relating to interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage system, setting up sewage treatment plant (STP), low cost sanitation, river front/bathing ghat development, etc. have been taken up. Total sanctioned cost for this purpose under NRCP is Rs.774.43 crore and sewage treatment capacity created is 663.20 Million Liters per Day (MLD).

(d) To have a long term and effective strategy for sustainable and integrated management of water resources in the country, including Punjab, National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which, *inter-alia*, calls for rainwater harvesting, 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. The policy has been circulated to states for adoption.

- In tune with the aspirations echoed by the NWP, the government has implemented several demand and supply side measures for conservation and sustainable use of water resources. To reduce the water demand schemes like PDMC, which emphasize on switching to micro irrigation systems, Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and National Food Security Mission (NFSM) etc. are being implemented in Punjab. Further, the M/o Jal Shakti has also issued advisories to Punjab to review their free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers and bring suitable water pricing policy which are being acted upon by the state. On the other hand, to augment the supply of water, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge works are being taken up under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Mission Amrit Sarovar, the Repair, Renovation, and Restoration (RRR) scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) etc. In this regard, the Masterplan for artificial recharge prepared and disseminated.
- In addition to the above, based on the advice of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Punjab Water Resources Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) has been established under section 3 of Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 Act to ensure conservation, management and regulation of water resources in the State.
- Further, to reduce dependence on ground water and to increase the availability of surface water, the government of Punjab has taken up several projects to extend and revive the canal networks.

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