GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4575

ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

ANNUAL GROUND WATER REPORT OF CGWB

4575. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL

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

(a) the key findings and progress made in the 2024 annual groundwater report released by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB);

(b) the manner in which the National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024 serves as a foundation for effective ground water management policies and strategies;

(c) the role of water bodies, tanks and conservation structure in contributing to increased recharge and the way in which this reflects the impact of various Governmental initiatives aimed at ground water revival;

(d) the challenges that remain in managing ground water resources along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address them in both urban and rural areas; and

(e) the future plans of the Government to further remove the ground water sustainability of the country, particularly in the regions facing severe water scarcity or ground water depletion?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) Assessment of Dynamic groundwater resources of each State/UT is being carried out on annual basis jointly by the Central Ground Water Board and the concerned State Nodal/Ground Water Departments. As per the report of "National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024", the total annual groundwater recharge in the country has been assessed as 446.9 billion cubic metres (bcm). Total annual extractable groundwater resource has been assessed as 406.19 bcm and the total annual groundwater extraction for all purposes (like domestic, industrial, agricultural uses etc) is estimated as 245.64 bcm. The Stage of groundwater Extraction (SoE), which is defined as a ratio of Annual Ground Water Extraction over Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource for the whole country is arrived at 60.47 %.

Further, out of the total 6746 assessment units (Blocks/Taluks/Mandals) in the country, 4951 (73.39 %) units are categorized as "safe", 711 units (10.54 %) as "Semi-critical'', 206 units (3.05 %) as "Critical", 751 units (11.13%) as "Over-Exploited and remaining 127 assessment units (1.88%) are placed under "Saline" category.

(b) Effective ground water management requires a clear understanding of its availability, usage and challenges. The National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024, offers a comprehensive overview of the ground water scenario of the country, by providing the details of annual ground water recharge, availability and extraction at the Block-level, which is the fundamental unit for policy planning in the country. By adopting a scientific and data-driven approach, the report also proves essential for evaluating the impact of various interventions initiated by both Central and State governments. Providing useful insights into ground water variability with rainfall, land use patterns and industrial development etc. the report helps in informed decision-making, designing effective policies and management strategies.

(c) In the recent years, the cumulative measures for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water measures undertaken by the central and state governments have had a significant impact in augmenting the ground water resources of the country as well as in enhancing water storage. On comparison between the years 2017 and 2024, it can be seen that ground water recharge happening from Tanks, Ponds & Water Conservation Structures (WCS) has increased by 11.36 BCM in the country, i.e. from 13.98 BCM in 2017 to 25.34 BCM in 2024. In addition to this, these structures also enhance water storage, which can be used for multiple purposes like irrigation, drinking etc. thus reducing the stress on ground water extraction.

(d) The key challenges that remain in managing ground water resources in the rural and urban areas of the country, *inter alia*, include local land right and ownership issues, lack of appropriate information at the field level, non-availability of sufficient pool of skilled personnel at the grassroots level; insufficient coordination among various agencies and stakeholders; securing active and effective community involvement; insufficient institutional capacities at State and local level etc. These issues are being addressed by the government by way of forging common platforms of central and state level officials for effective dialogue and co-ordination, increased training and capacity building activities, extensive use of IEC activities for raising community awareness on ground water issues etc. In this regard, it is to mention that conceptualizing these aspects in the form of a scheme, the government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a community led scheme stressing on demand side management of ground water. Atal Jal incorporates all the above mentioned approaches in its fold, which are seen as the future of sustainable ground water management in the country.

(e) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the 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, several significant steps have already been taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries for sustainable development of ground water resources in the country, while focusing on regions facing water scarcity. All these measures are continuous in nature, which will take care of ground water sustainability in future also, either in existing or modified forms. Some of the important ones are given below:-

i. 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. 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. 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).

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, including recommendations for artificial recharge have been shared with the respective State governments for implementation.

iv. 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.

v. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop Scheme in the country, 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.

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. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020.

viii. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari: A Community-Driven Path to Water Sustainability in India has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with a vision to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. By promoting community ownership and responsibility, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.

*****