

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' WELFARE

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5016

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 1ST APRIL, 2025

USE OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCE IN BIHAR

5016. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has implemented any schemes for the efficient use of groundwater resources in Bihar, particularly in districts like West Champaran facing declining water tables; and
- (b) if so, the details and the current status of these schemes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण राज्य मंत्री (SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR)

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Central Government facilitates efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. Government has taken following steps for sustainable development of ground water resources in the country including State of Bihar : -

- i. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR), in the country for the purpose of ground water mapping, monitoring and development activities. Under the Scheme, ground water level monitoring is done four times a year. Comparison of the Post Monsoon 2023 level with the decadal mean level (Mean of Post Monsoon 2013-22 levels) shows that, in Bihar about 37% of the wells monitored have registered rise in ground water levels. For West Champaran, the analysis reveals that 50% of wells have registered rise.
- ii. CGWB has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project covering approximately 25 lakh square kms. of mappable area across the country, including around 90,567 sq. km in the State of Bihar. The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared for all Districts, including West Champaran, and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. Aquifer management plans prepared under NAQUIM, propose both supply side and demand side interventions.

- 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 about 185 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water. Master Plan for the State of Bihar recommends construction of about 91 thousand structures in the State.
- iv. The Government has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019. 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. JSA 2024 was implemented in the country with special focus on 151 water stressed districts of the country, including 2 such districts in Bihar. JSA -2025 has been launched recently with the theme of 'Peoples' Action for Water Conservation - Towards Intensified Community Connect'.
- v. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by Government of India which aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies in each district of the country, including Bihar. Under the mission Nearly 68,841 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with 2,613 in Bihar.
- vi. Government of India supports construction of water conservation and rain water harvesting in States, including Bihar, through its schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC).
- vii. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under the Ministry of Jal Shakti 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 which have pan India applicability.
- viii. This Ministry 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 have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation, including Bihar.
- ix. As reported by State Government, Govt. of Bihar has implemented Jal Jeevan-Hariyali Mission for efficient use of ground water resources in Bihar, particularly in districts like West Champaran. Activities under Scheme include Rejuvenation of Ponds/Aahar/Pynes, Rejuvenation of Wells and Construction of Soak Pits/Recharge structures near Wells & Hand pumps.

Besides, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme in the country, including Bihar, since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation. An area of 32577 ha has been covered under Micro Irrigation in State of Bihar including West Champaran till date.
