

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5450

ANSWERED ON 03.04.2025

GROUND WATER DEPLETION CRISIS

5450. SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT

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

- (a) whether the Central Ground Water Board's report, 2023 indicates that 256 out of 755 districts in India are facing critical or overexploited ground water levels and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) warns that 40% of India's population may have no access to drinking water by 2030 and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address this issue;
- (c) the reasons for Government's failure to effectively curb groundwater depletion despite the implementation of schemes like Atal Bhujal Yojana;
- (d) whether the Government acknowledges that 85% of rural drinking water supply relies on groundwater and if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken/being taken to ensure its sustainability; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to enforce stricter regulations for ground water extraction instead of relying on voluntary compliance and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) In the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment-2023 report prepared by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), 705 districts in the country have been assessed, out of which 24 districts were under the 'Critical' category and 98 districts were under 'Over-Exploited' category. The details of such districts is provided in **Annexure**.

(b) Drinking water is a state subject. However, Government of India is implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), since August 2019, with an objective to provide safe & potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on a regular & long-term basis to all rural households in the country. So far, as reported by State/UTs, as on 20.03.2025 out of 19.36 Crore rural households in the country, approximately 15.53 Crore (80.22%) households have been provided with safe drinking water through tap water supply.

With respect to Urban areas, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme has been launched on 01 October 2021 in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ cities, with an aim to enable them to become 'self-reliant' and 'water secure'. Supplying clean water is also covered under the scope of

AMRUT 2.0 and so far, 3,587 water supply projects have been approved across the country, covering various cities.

(c) Analysis of available data indicates that there has been overall improvement in ground water situation in the country over the past few years, except in some water stressed pockets. During the period from 2017 to 2024, annual ground water recharge in the country has increased from 436.15 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) to 446.90 BCM, whereas, total annual ground water extraction for all purposes has remained stable from 244.92 BCM to 245.64 BCM. Further, the Stage of Ground water Extraction (SoE), which is defined as a ratio of total annual ground water extraction to total annual extractable ground water, has declined from 61.6% to 60.47%, thus indicating reduction in ground water stress.

Further, arresting the decline of ground water is an important outcome indicator under Atal Bhujal Yojana. As per the recent assessment conducted, 1,333 Atal Jal Gram Panchayats and 61 blocks in the year 2024 have shown improvement in groundwater levels.

(d) Source sustainability is an important focus area of the schemes and projects undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Schemes like Groundwater Management and Regulation Scheme, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan, etc. strive to ensure sustainability of ground water sources, especially those which are being utilized for drinking purposes. Measures like construction of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures, which include ponds, check dams, recharge shafts, rooftop rain water harvesting structures etc. are taken up under these schemes for augmenting aquifer potential and to ensure their sustainability.

Further, development of reliable drinking water sources and/ or augmentation of existing sources to provide long-term sustainability of water supply system in villages is an integral part of Jal Jeevan Mission. To achieve this objective, the operational guidelines for the implementation of JJM stipulate that any water supply scheme should be taken up under JJM only after the recommendation of a Source Finding Committee of the respective state government. This ensures that the identified water source through which the scheme is planned, has sufficient yield for sustaining water supply as per required norm, for the scheme design period. Additionally, strengthening of drinking water sources is also taken up in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Finance Commission grants to rural local bodies/ PRIs, MP & MLA's Local Area Development Fund, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR fund, etc.

(e) Water is a state subject and regulation of ground water extraction is primarily the responsibility of State governments. However, M/o Jal Shakti has constituted Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) which regulates the abstraction cum use of groundwater as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 which have pan India applicability. The Guidelines contain sufficiently stringent measures like imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) charges for extraction of ground water without valid NOC, penalties for non-compliance with NOC conditions, sealing of unauthorized ground water extraction structures etc. In addition to this, the state governments have been given the liberty to impose more stringent measures in their domain, wherever felt necessary.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5450 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.04.2025 REGARDING “GROUND WATER DEPLETION CRISIS”.

**Details of Critical and Over-Exploited Districts in the country
(as per Ground Water Resource Assessment-2023)**

S.No	Name of State/UT	Name of District	Categorisation Critical/ Over- Exploited (OE)
1	Chhattisgarh	Bemetara	Critical
2	Gujarat	Gandhinagar	Critical
3	Gujarat	Patan	Critical
4	Gujarat	Mahesana	OE
5	Gujarat	Banaskantha	OE
6	Haryana	Palwal	Critical
7	Haryana	Sonipat	OE
8	Haryana	Jind	OE
9	Haryana	Bhiwani	OE
10	Haryana	Ambala	OE
11	Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	OE
12	Haryana	Rewari	OE
13	Haryana	Yamuna Nagar	OE
14	Haryana	Mahendragarh	OE
15	Haryana	Sirsa	OE
16	Haryana	Karnal	OE
17	Haryana	Fatehabad	OE
18	Haryana	Kaithal	OE
19	Haryana	Panipat	OE
20	Haryana	Faridabad	OE
21	Haryana	Gurgaon	OE
22	Haryana	Kurukshetra	OE
23	Karnataka	Tumakuru	Critical
24	Karnataka	Ramanagara	Critical
25	Karnataka	Chamarajanagara	Critical
26	Karnataka	Chitradurga	OE
27	Karnataka	Bengaluru (Urban)	OE
28	Karnataka	Chikkaballapura	OE
29	Karnataka	Bengaluru (Rural)	OE
30	Karnataka	Kolara	OE
31	Madhya Pradesh	Neemuch	Critical
32	Madhya Pradesh	Mandsaur	OE
33	Madhya Pradesh	Shajapur	OE
34	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	OE
35	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	OE
36	Madhya Pradesh	Ratlam	OE
37	Maharashtra	Amravati	Critical
38	Punjab	Rupnagar	Critical
39	Punjab	Mansa	Critical
40	Punjab	Bathinda	OE

41	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	OE
42	Punjab	Sbs Nagar	OE
43	Punjab	Faridkot	OE
44	Punjab	Sas Nagar	OE
45	Punjab	Firozpur	OE
46	Punjab	Gurdaspur	OE
47	Punjab	Amritsar	OE
48	Punjab	Tarn Taran	OE
49	Punjab	Patiala	OE
50	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib	OE
51	Punjab	Ludhiana	OE
52	Punjab	Barnala	OE
53	Punjab	Moga	OE
54	Punjab	Kapurthala	OE
55	Punjab	Jalandhar	OE
56	Punjab	Malerkotla	OE
57	Punjab	Sangrur	OE
58	Rajasthan	Tonk	OE
59	Rajasthan	Bundi	OE
60	Rajasthan	Udaipur	OE
61	Rajasthan	Kota	OE
62	Rajasthan	Jhalawar	OE
63	Rajasthan	Sirohi	OE
64	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	OE
65	Rajasthan	Rajsamand	OE
66	Rajasthan	Churu	OE
67	Rajasthan	Pratapgarh	OE
68	Rajasthan	Baran	OE
69	Rajasthan	Barmer	OE
70	Rajasthan	Dhaulpur	OE
71	Rajasthan	Bikaner	OE
72	Rajasthan	Ajmer	OE
73	Rajasthan	Chittaurgarh	OE
74	Rajasthan	Karauli	OE
75	Rajasthan	Pali	OE
76	Rajasthan	Sawai Madhopur	OE
77	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	OE
78	Rajasthan	Jalor	OE
79	Rajasthan	Nagaur	OE
80	Rajasthan	Alwar	OE
81	Rajasthan	Sikar	OE
82	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu	OE
83	Rajasthan	Jaipur	OE
84	Rajasthan	Dausa	OE
85	Rajasthan	Jodhpur	OE
86	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer	OE
87	Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri	Critical
88	Tamil Nadu	Karur	Critical
89	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	OE
90	Tamil Nadu	Perambalur	OE
91	Tamil Nadu	Vellore	OE

92	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	OE
93	Tamil Nadu	Namakkal	OE
94	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	OE
95	Tamil Nadu	Salem	OE
96	Tamil Nadu	Mayiladuthurai	OE
97	Tamil Nadu	Tirupathur	OE
98	Telangana	Hyderabad	Critical
99	Uttar Pradesh	Mahoba	Critical
100	Uttar Pradesh	Amroha	Critical
101	Uttar Pradesh	Hathras	Critical
102	Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahar	Critical
103	Uttar Pradesh	Bagpat	Critical
104	Uttar Pradesh	Hapur	Critical
105	Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur	OE
106	Uttar Pradesh	Shamli	OE
107	Uttar Pradesh	Firozabad	OE
108	Uttar Pradesh	G.B.Nagar	OE
109	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	OE
110	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	OE
111	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	Dadra Nagar Haveli	OE
112	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	Daman	OE
113	Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	Diu	OE
114	Delhi	South West	Critical
115	Delhi	East	Critical
116	Delhi	West	Critical
117	Delhi	South East	Critical
118	Delhi	North East	OE
119	Delhi	North	OE
120	Delhi	South	OE
121	Delhi	Shahdara	OE
122	Delhi	New Delhi	OE

***24 districts have Stage of Ground Water Extraction (SoE) between 90% to 100% (Critical) and 98 districts have Stage of Ground Water Extraction (SoE) more than 100% (Over-exploited).**
