

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 640

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI INITIATIVE IN KERALA

640. SHRI RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN

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

- (a) the specific steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative in the districts of Kerala, especially in Kasargode;
- (b) the details of the budget allocated for the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative along with the funds distributed to Kerala, district-wise and;
- (c) the major challenges faced by the Government in the implementation of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari in Kerala along with the steps taken/being taken to address these challenges?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign, aims to promote community-driven water conservation and groundwater recharge across the country, including Kerala. The initiative focuses on constructing one million artificial recharge structures through a convergent and participatory approach by leveraging multiple funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions etc.

The Government has taken specific steps to facilitate implementation in Kerala, including Kasargode, by issuing an advisory on 07.10.2024, in collaboration with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), to District Magistrates/Deputy Commissioners and Municipal Corporations for implementation. To ensure transparency and quality monitoring, the Ministry has developed the Jal Sanchay Dashboard, an online platform for tracking recharge structures using GIS coordinates, photographs and financial details. As on 04.02.2025, 5.18 lakh recharge structures have been onboarded under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative with around 2,768 recharge structures in Kerala including 387 recharge structure in Kasargode. Furthermore, 1% of recharge structures are test-checked for quality assurance. CWC and CGWB

also provide technical assistance for the creation and renovation of recharge structures to improve groundwater augmentation efforts.

Technical officers from 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.

(b) The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative does not have a separate dedicated budget but is implemented through convergence of existing schemes and funds are made available under various Central and State programs such as MGNREGS, AMRUT, PDMC, PMKSY, CAMPA, CSR etc.

(c) Implementing Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) in any State, Kerala included, can pose a challenge due to various technical, social, economic and institutional factors. Like in a few other states, implementation of the JSJB initiative in Kerala may face several challenges, of geographic condition, slope, high-rainfall, high runoff, water logging etc, making the scope for water conservation structures for direct recharge of ground water, limited. To address this, as water may be needed in such areas too, during lean and dry seasons, rainwater harvesting structures, like Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Structures for collection and storage of rainwater is encouraged. Additionally, land constraint, congestion, unplanned construction in urban and peri-urban areas in states with high density population, pose further challenge in constructing artificial recharge structures. In response, the Government has issued Advisory and FAQ, to promote rooftop rainwater harvesting for direct ground water recharge, rejuvenation of traditional/ existing water bodies and integrating recharge structures with existing infrastructure, in such areas. To promote behaviour change , JSJB encourages intensified community action and ownership for water conservation.
