GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *162

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

IMPACT OF ABY ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

*162. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA

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

(a) whether the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) has achieved its planned targets for groundwater recharge, community water budgeting and participatory irrigation management in the identified pilot districts since its launch and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantifiable impact of ABY on groundwater levels in each of the seven implementing States since 2020 including trends in over-exploited and critical blocks;

(c) whether the Government proposes to scale up successful models of groundwater governance under Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain, Phase II; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the criteria laid down for shortlisting and funding?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *162 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "IMPACT OF ABY ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT"

(a) Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal/ABY) is a unique scheme for community led sustainable management of ground water resources. The scheme lays a robust grassroots foundation and promotes rigorous capacity building at the Gram Panchayat level through sustained information, education, communication (IEC) and training activities, empowering the community members to come together and themselves prepare Water Budgets (WBs) followed by Water Security Plans (WSPs) for their GPs. The WSPs are discussed and approved by the gram sabhas after detailed deliberations wherein maximum participation of community members, with at least 33% women participation, is ensured. The WSPs contain both supply and demand side measures to enhance ground water recharge as well as to improve irrigation efficiency by reducing water demand. So far, community led water budgeting and preparation of WSPs has been completed for all 8,203 GPs under Atal Jal and the same are updated annually.

As envisaged in the WSPs, construction of various water conservation and ground water recharge works like check dams, ponds, recharge pits/shafts etc. are taken up through convergence mode and using an incentive mechanism which has resulted in construction/renovation of around 81,700 supply-side recharge structures so far under the Yojana further resulting in an estimated ground water recharge of around 716 Million Cubic Meters (MCM).

(b) Arresting the decline of ground water levels is one of the important performance indicators under Atal Bhujal Yojana. The scheme is being implemented in 229 Blocks of 7 States, out of which 140 were under over-exploited and critical category during the year 2020. As per the assessment conducted, out of 229 Blocks, totally 83 Blocks have shown improvement in ground water levels as detailed in **Annexure – I.** Further, among over-exploited and critical Blocks, 55 have shown improvement during the same period, the details of which are provided in **Annexure –II.**

(c) & (d) The Government is implementing the umbrella campaign of 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 in convergence with various ongoing central and state schemes like MGNREGA, AMRUT, PMKSY etc.

To further strengthen the momentum of Shakti Abhiyan, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB**)** initiative was launched in September 2024, which seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions by promoting community ownership and responsibility. Several innovative models of groundwater recharge and water conservation have been

observed across various regions under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR) campaign, showcasing the diversity of locally adapted and community-driven solutions.

Brief description of some of the noteworthy models is provided below:

- In Banaskantha, Gujarat, a large-scale initiative has focused on constructing low-cost artificial recharge structures in arid regions by leveraging CSR funding and the participation of farmer cooperatives. This model demonstrates how public-private collaboration can effectively address regional water stress.
- In Maharashtra, the Jal Tara Model involves farmers systematically constructing standardized recharge pits measuring 4 ft × 4 ft × 6 ft across agricultural land. This low-tech but impactful intervention enhances infiltration and supports the recharge of shallow aquifers, benefiting both crops and groundwater sustainability.
- In Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh, revival of Noon river has presented an exemplary case of river rejuvenation through collective effort. The 81-kilometre stretch, once reduced to a dry drain, was brought back to life through the involvement of MNREGS workers, local volunteers, students, and technical support. Restoration of flow paths and removal of obstructions supported irrigation across 2,780 hectares, benefiting more than 15,000 farmers.
- In addition to the above, there are other successful models which have emerged in different parts of the country like, the Karmbhoomi se Matribhoomi Model of Gujarat; CREDAI–Raipur model of Chhattisgarh; Alwar, Rajasthan Model for using school buildings as learning aids for rooftop rainwater harvesting; 5% Model from Korea district in Chhattisgarh; Gir Ganga Trust model of Gujarat showcasing a philanthropic and community-led approach etc.

These successful models have been documented and are regularly showcased by the National Water Mission during interactions with District Collectors, wherein exemplary districts present their implementation strategies. To facilitate broader replication, a compilation of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and standard designs for artificial recharge structures has also been shared with all States and Union Territories.

Implementation of all the works under JSA: CTR, including the replication and scaling up of successful models is primarily supported through convergence of funds from ongoing Central and State schemes, along with community and CSR contributions.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *162 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING "IMPACT OF ABY ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT"

States	Total Blocks	Improvement Status
Gujarat	36	13
Haryana	36	14
Karnataka	41	20
Madhya Pradesh	9	4
Maharashtra	43	14
Rajasthan	38	13
Uttar Pradesh	26	5
Grand Total	**229**	**83**

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *162 TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING "IMPACT OF ABY ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT"

States	Over Exploited and Critical Blocks(out of 229 total)	Improvement Status
Gujarat	23	9
Haryana	31	10
Karnataka	41	20
Madhya Pradesh	0	0
Maharashtra	10	6
Rajasthan	26	9
Uttar Pradesh	9	1
Grand Total	**140**	**55**

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