GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *72

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

*72. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY

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

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any initiatives/measures or implemented any schemes to recharge/improve groundwater levels across the country during the last five years, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total funds allocated and utilised in this regard during the last five years, State-wise especially in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government has considered utilising new-age technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Satellite mapping and other such technologies for mapping and measuring groundwater levels in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase awareness regarding the need to enhance groundwater levels across the country?

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. *72 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "GROUNDWATER RECHARGE"

(a) Water being a State subject, the issues related to development, regulation and management of ground water is primarily the responsibility of the state governments. The Central Government provides technical support and financial assistance through its institutions and various centrally sponsored schemes. In this regard, the Ministry of Jal Shakti(MoJS) is implementing several projects and schemes to continuously monitor and improve the ground water levels in the country whose brief outline is given below:

- MoJS 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 like check dams, ponds, recharge shafts/pits etc by actively converging the resources from several platforms. Currently, JSA 2025 is underway in the country, with a special focus on Over-exploited and Critical districts. Further, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative was launched under JSA during 2024, for taking up the construction of cost effective and locally suited artificial recharge structures across the country on a large scale through a convergent and participatory approach.

- MoJS is also implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana in selected 80 water-stressed districts in identified 7 states to ensure sustainable management of groundwater resources with community participation. Several supply and demand side interventions have been taken up under the scheme to boost ground water recharge and to reduce water demand as well.

- The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) regulates and monitors ground water levels and quality and assess ground water resources etc throughout the country. Further, under National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) aquifer mapping for the entire mappable area of the country has been completed and district-wise aquifer management plans have been prepared and disseminated to the concerned administrations. Further, under NAQUIM 2.0, detailed micro level studies focusing on priority areas like water stressed zones, urban agglomerations, coastal regions have been done.

- Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has also been prepared by CGWB in consultation with States/UTs, which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42

crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water.

- 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 for the purpose of increasing water storage and boosting ground water recharge.

- Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop Scheme since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation and thus improving the ground water situation through demand reduction.

- In addition to the above, several State Governments have been implementing their own schemes targeting sustainable water resource improvement and management.

(b) Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, which is an umbrella campaign for converging all ground water improvement activities, an amount of Rs. 1.18 lakh crores has been spent towards water conservation, artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting activities/works from April 2021 to July 2025 by convergence through MGNREGA. Similarly, for the state of Andhra Pradesh, an amount of Around Rs. 9,814 crores has been spent during the same period. State-wise expenditure details are provided in **Annexure-I**.

(c) To leverage advanced global practices, this Ministry has adopted cutting-edge technology for more accurate groundwater mapping, monitoring, and assessment. CGWB employs GIS tools, remote sensing, and satellite data to develop scientific, region-specific management and recharge plans, including NAQUIM studies and the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge.

Further, this Ministry has taken up the process of installing Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) with telemetry systems throughout the country under its various schemes and projects like Ground Water Management & Regulation (GWM &R) Scheme, Atal Bhujal Yojana, National Hydrology Project(NHP) etc. These instruments transmit high frequency water level data directly from the field to a central server which will facilitate near-real-time access to this data, helping in more robust policy formulation.

Moreover, Heli-borne geophysical surveys adopting Transient Electromagnetic Methods have been carried out by CGWB in collaboration with CSIR-NGRI for high resolution mapping of aquifers in the arid north western areas of the country. Several potential sites for ground water exploration as well as conducting artificial recharge have been identified in the survey.

(d) The government is continuously striving to enhance people's awareness about ground water issues of the country and secure active community participation for sustainable management of ground water resources. Some of the important measures taken in this regard are provided below:

- Sensitizing the communities on the need to preserve water and securing their active participation in water conservation works is at the heart of Jal Shakti Abhiyan. Through campaigns, workshops, and local initiatives, it educates citizens on rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and efficient water use. Moreover, Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been set up in every district of the country which act as knowledge centers disseminating information and advising people on various water related issues.

- JSJB campaign was launched under JSA with an objective to take ground water management to grassroots level. By converging efforts and funds from both government and community, the initiative strives to promote community ownership and responsibility, for developing cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.

- Large scale sustained information, education, communication (IEC) and awareness activities have been taken up under Atal Bhujal Yojana at Gram Panchayat level on local ground water issues. Further, regular Gram Panchayat level training programmes have enabled the local villagers to prepare Water Budgets and Water Security Plans for their Panchayats.

- Central Ground Water Board organizes various Public Interaction Programs (PIPs) on local ground water issues, wherein the local public is made aware of rainwater harvesting techniques, construction and conservation of water harvesting structures etc.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *72 TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025 REGARDING "GROUNDWATER RECHARGE"

State-wise Expenditure incurred under Jal Shakti Abhiyan in convergence with MGNREGA from - 2021—25 (in Lakhs)							
S.No.	**State**	**Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting**	**Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies**	**Reuse and Recharge Structures**	**Watershed Development**	**Intensive Afforestation**	**Grand Total**
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR	147	99	1	124	7	378
2	**ANDHRA PRADESH**	**273580**	**469571**	**364**	**186559**	**51336**	**981411**
3	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	13892	886	2659	6098	19614	43143
4	ASSAM	60377	13567	119	122439	15418	211914
5	BIHAR	211196	43859	8385	146723	27544	437708
6	CHHATTISGARH	251101	156291	7354	63766	29172	507683
7	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	GOA	46	121	30	106	16	319
9	GUJARAT	43947	57250	1307	51837	19447	173791
10	HARYANA	11012	14019	207	20853	2282	48374
11	HIMACHAL PRADESH	17949	3876	784	52710	7273	82590
12	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	36413	8197	14619	69237	6927	135395
13	JHARKHAND	80574	2160	920	83972	27832	195460
14	KARNATAKA	259995	92652	41581	254500	266082	914807
15	KERALA	118159	41839	30318	425992	55815	672123
16	LADAKH	2953	130	1031	2953	155	7222
17	LAKSHADWEEP	0	2	0	0	2	4
18	MADHYA PRADESH	422781	50997	20527	256107	57985	808395
19	MAHARASHTRA	30434	18194	3225	24700	84844	161397
20	MANIPUR	35907	12771	286	9887	16417	75271
21	MEGHALAYA	22590	2642	619	23956	14311	64119
22	MIZORAM	33003	1815	1169	14320	4420	54729
23	NAGALAND	9807	3251	303	7621	31579	52563
24	ODISHA	205492	116123	9617	234166	147239	712636
25	PUDUCHERRY	106	2905	0	15	2	3029
26	PUNJAB	8502	41796	719	33749	33840	118601
27	RAJASTHAN	701945	245079	3779	194947	117182	1262928
28	SIKKIM	2546	91	195	6757	4007	13595
29	TAMIL NADU	956291	161530	29904	404985	64375	1617082
30	TELANGANA	31559	92440	245	51433	61164	236849
31	TRIPURA	46563	4197	1332	53198	30091	135381
32	UTTAR PRADESH	229263	169432	4750	811800	54980	1270227
33	UTTARAKHAND	23234	7445	1716	58003	8496	98896
34	WEST BENGAL	199513	137368	11191	128166	233781	710019
Total (In Lakhs)		**4340877**	**1972595**	**199256**	**3801679**	**1493635**	**11808039**

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