GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2008

ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

DRIED UP WATER SOURCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

2008. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the reports of dried up water sources and streams in Himachal Pradesh due to climate change, deforestation and excessive extraction of groundwater;

(b) if so, the details and the number of streams, rivers and other water sources that have dried up during the last ten years in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(c) whether any studies or surveys have been conducted to assess the impact of drying water sources on agriculture, hydropower and drinking water supply in the region and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to rejuvenate water sources and enhance groundwater recharge in the region; and

(e) whether any financial or technical assistance is being provided to the Himachal Pradesh Government for water conservation and management projects and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, the responsibility for augmentation, conservation, and efficient management of water resources primarily lies with the respective State Governments. According to the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, there is no reported cases of water sources drying up due to climate change, deforestation and excessive groundwater extraction. As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India – 2024 report, all 10 groundwater assessment units in the state are categorized as safe. The state's annual groundwater recharge has been assessed at 1.11 billion cubic metres (bcm), with 1.01 bcm designated as annual extractable resources. The total annual groundwater extraction across all sectors stands at 0.36 bcm, resulting in a groundwater extraction rate of 35.48%, which is well within sustainable limits.

(c) Water, being a State subject, places the primary responsibility for the augmentation, conservation, assessment and efficient management of water resources with the respective State Governments. However, since 2022, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Government of India, in

collaboration with State Governments, has been undertaking annual assessments of the country's dynamic groundwater resources, including those of Himachal Pradesh.

The CGWB carried out a Springshed Management Study in Kangra district as part of the Annual Action Plan (AAP) 2023–24. This study was undertaken in response to reports of declining spring discharge and the drying up of springs, which serve as vital sources for drinking, domestic, and irrigation needs in the region. A total of 233 springs were inventoried during the study, which identified three primary types: fractured/fissured springs (the majority), contact springs, and depression springs.

The study found that most springs in the area are structurally controlled, with fractured and fissured springs predominantly aligned along major lineaments and fractures. Discharge measurements indicated a range of 60–200 litres per minute (LPM) during the pre-monsoon period, increasing to 60–300 LPM in the post-monsoon period.

(d) 'Water' being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments.

However, the Central Government takes various steps to promote water conservation and rainwater harvesting across the country, including water-stressed regions, to augment water availability and recharge groundwater. The major initiatives in this regard include 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain' (JSA: CTR) Campaign; Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal); Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS); Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY); Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transforming (AMRUT); Amrit Sarovar Mission; Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL); Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016; Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation & Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014; Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), etc. Further, Watershed Development Component (WDC) of PMKSY 2.0 incorporates spring shed management as a core activity. Also, National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) includes component for community based spring shed development in Indian Himalayan region.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019 as a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign in 256 water-stressed districts of the country. The Hon'ble Prime Minister launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA: CTR) in 2021 with the tagline "Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls" with five focused interventions (1) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (2) enumerating, geo- tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it (3) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (4) intensive afforestation and (5) awareness generation. The Abhiyan was scaled up to cover all districts, blocks, and municipalities across the country. The JSA:CTR 2022 campaign was launched with special focus on spring shed development for hilly areas.

The 4th edition of the campaign was launched with theme “Source Sustainability for Drinking Water”, focusing on geo-tagging of all water sources of drinking water supply schemes. As reported by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, total 47 Ground Water and Spring Sources Geo-tagged under JSA:CTR 2023 campaign. In 2024 campaign 17,670 ground water and spring souces have been geotagged.

To further strengthen JSA: CTR, “Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari” (JSJB) initiative was launched under Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign in Surat, Gujarat on 06th September, 2024, which focuses on intensifying community mobilization to build low-cost rainwater harvesting structures in saturation mode. The details of works onboarded under JSA: CTR and JSJB by Government of Himachal Pradesh are attached at **Annexure I** and **Annexure II** respectively.

(e): 'Water' being a state subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign emphasizes on convergent financing from various schemes of the Central, State and local bodies like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants etc.

The "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" (JSJB) initiative focuses on intensifying community mobilization to build low-cost rainwater harvesting structures in saturation mode. The JSJB started by leveraging community funds, individual donations, Corporate Social Responsibility Funds etc. for construction of low-cost structures like borewells, recharge shafts, recharge pits, using locally available material, to harvest rainwater, to boost ground water level and provide local tailor-made solution to water issues.

Furthermore, Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been established across districts, serving as dedicated resource and knowledge centers to provide technical guidance to locals and support district administration in implementation of rain water harvesting systems. 12 Jal Shakti Kendras have been established in Himachal Pradesh.

In addition, districts have formulated District Water Conservation Plans to ensure sustainable water management in their respective districts. Under the JSA: CTR funds has been made available to the various districts to prepare for District Level Scientific Water Conservation Plans for renovation of existing water bodies/water harvesting structures and construction of new water bodies/water harvesting

structures. Till now, 6 District Water Conservation plans have been prepared in Himachal Pradesh under JSA: CTR.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), in consultation with State Governments, assesses the country's dynamic groundwater resources annually. These periodic estimations offer crucial insights into groundwater replenishment, utilization and overall availability across all assessment units, aiding various stakeholders in informed decision-making.

Additionally, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km in the Country including the water-stressed regions of the country. CGWB also prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater – 2020 in consultation with States/UTs. This macro-level plan identifies various types of recharge structures suitable for different terrain conditions across the country, including water-stressed regions. The Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been circulated to all lined department of the States for implementation.

Under Ground Water Management & Regulation Scheme, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has been involved in the implementation of several successful artificial recharge projects including recharge pits in the country for demonstrative purpose which enables the State Governments to replicate the same in suitable hydrogeological conditions. To address the challenges faced by States and local bodies in implementing rainwater harvesting systems, particularly in water-stressed regions, the Government of India has adopted a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach. As part of this strategy, Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) and Technical Officers (TOs) from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) conduct field visits to facilitate the districts and to provide technical assistance.

Under the Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) scheme, which is a Central Sector Scheme, the CGWB offers technical assistance to State Governments for water conservation and rainwater harvesting initiatives, including those in rural areas. Since GWMR is centrally implemented, all activities are directly carried out by the CGWB.

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ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2008 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING "DRIED UP WATER SOURCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH".

Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rain								
National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti								
Intervention-Wise Status Report (JSA 2019 - 2025)								
Ministry/Department: ALL *Figures Showing No. of Works Completed & Ongoing								
S.No.	**Year**	**Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting**	**Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies**	**Reuse and Recharge Structures**	**Watershed Development**	**Total Water Related Works**	**Intensive Afforestation**	**Expenditure** - Including Water related works and Afforestation (In Rs Crores)*
1	2019	273256	44497	142740	159354	619,847	123,599,566	NA
2	2021	1627677	295836	832596	1918913	4,675,022	367,660,580	65,516
3	2022	1241770	267782	872489	1628706	4,010,747	783,836,035	23,863
4	2023	1242357	283786	680256	1484611	3,691,010	55,026,292	18,915
5	2024	1301806	308711	534564	2021450	4,166,531	64,845,783	8873
6	2025	700287	107760	170916	703393	1,682,356	17,408,545	913
Total		**6,387,153**	**1,308,372**	**3,233,561**	**7,916,427**	**18,845,513**	**1,412,376,801**	**118,080**
Total (Jal Shakti Kendra)						**712**		
Total (WCP)						**639**		

Jal Shakti Abhiyan:Catch the Rainv						
National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti						
HIMACHAL PRADESH - Intervention wise Progress (Status from 22-03-2021 to 29-07-2025)						
JSA Year	**Water Conservation and Rain Water Harvesting**	**Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies**	**Reuse and Recharge Structures**	**Watershed Development**	**Total Water Related Works (Year-wise)**	**Total Water Related Works (State-wise)**
2021	14011	2505	1046	39810	**57372**	294988
2022	13429	2454	1101	40287	**57271**	
2023	18806	1981	1229	45408	**67424**	
2024	22651	2157	1623	67526	**93957**	
2025	3499	238	259	14968	**18964**	
Total	**72396**	**9335**	**5258**	**207999**	**294988**	

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2008 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING "DRIED UP WATER SOURCES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH".

State-wise progress under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0				
(Status as on 31.05.2025)				
S. No.	**State**	**Completed Work**	**Ongoing Work**	**Total Works**
1	ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS	119	14	133
2	ANDHRA PRADESH	36338	45990	82328
3	ASSAM	1710	188	1898
4	BIHAR	134431	7480	141911
5	CHANDIGARH	11	17	28
6	CHHATTISGARH	405563	31332	436895
7	DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU	92	0	92
8	DELHI	201	0	201
9	GOA	7	0	7
10	GUJARAT	133522	28188	161710
11	HARYANA	7465	617	8082
12	HIMACHAL PRADESH	148	36	184
13	JAMMU AND KASHMIR	6129	90	6219
14	JHARKHAND	2798	519	3317
15	KARNATAKA	115303	22132	137435
16	KERALA	5396	4235	9631
17	LADAKH	1	1	2
18	MADHYA PRADESH	276625	31858	308483
19	MAHARASHTRA	7130	843	7973
20	MANIPUR	34	10	44
21	MEGHALAYA	3356	200	3556
22	MIZORAM	1	0	1
23	NAGALAND	63	0	63
24	ODISHA	101174	57907	159081
25	PUDUCHERRY	161	3	164
26	PUNJAB	6093	14911	21004
27	RAJASTHAN	364968	51115	416083
28	SIKKIM	18	0	18
29	TAMIL NADU	68887	13407	82294
30	TELANGANA	520332	41038	561370
31	TRIPURA	12305	292	12597
32	UTTAR PRADESH	141055	26259	167314
33	UTTARAKHAND	2333	482	2815
34	WEST BENGAL	25	5	30
Total		**2353794**	**379169**	**2732963**

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