

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3083

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

WATER CRISIS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware about the water crisis emerging in several States of the country due to depleting groundwater level and inequality in water distribution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the major schemes being run by the Government to deal with this crisis; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce an integrated national water policy in the future to resolve water distribution disputes among States and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry monitors groundwater levels throughout the country at regular prescribed intervals. The perusal of data from the monitoring conducted during November 2024 indicates that about 63% of the wells across the country recorded rise in ground water levels on comparison with decadal mean water levels (from November 2014 to November 2023).

However, water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of water resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. In this direction, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and other central ministries for sustainable management and augmentation of water resources in the country, by way of taking up water conservation and ground water recharge activities/works, with a special emphasis on water stressed parts, are given below:-

- i. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 in which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2025 is being implemented in the country with special focus on over-exploited and critical areas. JSA is an umbrella campaign under which various ground water recharge and conservation related works are being taken up in convergence with

various central and state schemes. As per JSA dashboard, in the past 4 years, more than 1.14 Cr water harvesting and recharge works have been completed through coordination in the country.

- ii. MoJS is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, which is a community led scheme for participatory ground water management focusing on demand side management of ground water in 80 water stressed districts in 7 States. Construction of various rain water harvesting and recharge structures like check dams, ponds, shafts etc. are incentivized under the scheme.
- iii. M/o Jal Shakti is promoting conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater and to reduce dependence on groundwater, surface water based Major and Medium irrigation projects have been taken up in the country under PMKSY-AIBP scheme in collaboration with States/UTs.
- iv. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW), GoI, is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme in the country, since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. From 2015-16 till December 2024, an area of 94.36 lakh ha has been covered under micro irrigation in the country through PDMC scheme.
- v. 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. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country.
- vi. CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) with an aim to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization. Entire mappable area of the country of around 25 lakh sq. km, has been mapped under the scheme and management plans have been shared with the respective State governments for taking up suitable field interventions. The plans comprise of recommendations for both demand and supply side measures.

(c) Realizing the significance of holistic and sustainable development of water resources in the country, Ministry of Water Resources had formulated the National Water Policy (NWP) in 1987 itself which was subsequently reviewed and updated in 2002 and 2012. From the ground water perspective, the NWP, 2012, inter-alia, calls for rainwater harvesting and conservation of water, mapping the aquifers of the country, proper regulation of extraction by setting up regulatory authorities and integrated development of surface and ground water. The NWP, 2012 also flags the need for adopting river basin based planning approach and scientific distribution of water based on precise and transparent hydrological data.
