

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 908

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2025

WATER SCARCITY IN RURAL AND DROUGHT-PRONE REGIONS

908. SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the growing water scarcity in various States especially in rural and drought-prone regions and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to recharge groundwater levels and ensure sustainable use of water resources;
- (c) whether there is any plan to promote rainwater harvesting and watershed management in urban and rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilized in Gujarat under the Jal Jeevan Mission and Atal Bhujal Yojana during the last two years?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation in a region, the water availability may result in water stress conditions.

The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country including rural and drought-prone regions are assessed every year from 2022 jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. These annual assessments of groundwater resources are carried out to analyze trends in groundwater recharge and extraction. As per the report of “National Compilation of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India, 2024”, Out of the total 6746 assessment units (Blocks/Taluks/Mandals) in the country, 751(11.13%) assessment units have been categorized as ‘Over exploited’; 206 (3.05 %) assessment units as ‘Critical’; 711 (10.54 %) as “Semi-critical” units; 127 (1.88 %) assessment units as “saline and 4951 (73.39 %) units are categorized as “safe” blocks.”.

‘Water’ being a state subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. 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 Government of India has taken various schemes and programmes like Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sicahai Yojna (PMKSY) - Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, Interlinking of Rivers (ILR), National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) etc. for water conservation, sustainable water management and improving the groundwater level across the country.

(d) An amount of Rs.368.92 crore has been released to the State of Gujarat under the Atal Bhujal Yojana during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25, out of which Rs. 367.86 crore has been utilized by the State.

The funds allocated and utilized in Gujarat under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) during last two years are as under:

(Amount in Rs crore)

Year	Central				
	Opening Balance	Allocation	Funds Drawn	Available Funds	Reported utilization
2023-24	1088.66	2982.85	2237.14	3325.80	2377.83
2024-25	947.97	2420.14	59.00	1006.97	881.84

Source: JJM-IMIS

As on 21.07.2025
