

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *542

ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION

†*542. SMT. SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA:

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:

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

- (a) whether the Government/the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has made any assessment of declining groundwater levels across various parts of the country in view of increasing pressure on groundwater resources due to agricultural, industrial and domestic usage and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units identified in Karnataka in the latest groundwater assessment;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to strengthen water conservation initiatives and aquifer recharge programmes under the schemes such as Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain and other groundwater management initiatives to ensure sustainable water availability in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the projects undertaken for aquifer mapping, rainwater harvesting, lake rejuvenation and artificial recharge structures in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka to ensure sustainable groundwater availability; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the declining groundwater levels, particularly in Chhattisgarh?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *542 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION”

(a) Ground water level monitoring is conducted on a regular basis by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry and respective State Governments. Analysis of data on ground water levels recorded by CGWB for the entire country, indicates that about 73.25 % of the wells monitored in the country have registered rise in groundwater level during the post monsoon (November/December) monitoring of 2025 as compared to decadal mean ground water level of previous ten years (2015-24). State/UT-wise details are provided in **Annexure**.

Further, assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country is being carried out annually since 2022 by CGWB in coordination with the State governments. Perusal of assessment data over the years indicates that the total annual groundwater recharge in the country has increased from 432 BCM in 2017 to 448.52 BCM in 2025. Further, the share of Safe assessment units has increased from 62.6% to 73.14%, while Over-exploited units have declined from 17.2% to 10.8% over the same period, indicating an overall improvement in groundwater status.

However, despite favourable conditions in the country as a whole, some pockets may be experiencing seasonal ground water stress due to various factors like high population density, rapid urbanization and industrialization, dependence on water intensive crops, inefficient irrigation practices, climate change, etc.

(b) As per the latest assessment of 2025, out of the total 237 Assessment Units (Taluku) in the state of Karnataka, 45 units (18.99%) have been categorized as ‘Over- exploited’ indicating that annual groundwater extraction exceeds the annual extractable groundwater resource. Further, 11 assessment units (4.64%) have been categorized as ‘Critical’, 36 units (15.19 %) as ‘Semi-critical’ and 145 units (61.18 %) are placed in ‘Safe’ category.

(c) to (e) ‘Water’ being a State subject, the responsibility of addressing the ground water related issues lies primarily with the concerned State/UTs 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, several important steps have been taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for sustainable management and improvement of ground water resources of the country, including in Karnataka and Chhattisgarh States. Gist of various such initiatives is given below:-

- i. Efforts of the Government for augmenting the water/groundwater resources of the country are mainly channeled through the flagship campaign of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), an annual mission mode programme for taking up water harvesting and artificial recharge activities. As per the available information, under JSA more than 2 Cr water conservation and artificial recharge works have been taken up through convergence in the country so far, with around 17.62 lakh works in Karnataka (including 33,259 works in Bengaluru Urban and 18,837 works in Bengaluru Rural Districts) and 4.97 lakh works in Chhattisgarh, which has played a key role in enhancing the sustainability of ground water resources.

- ii. To further strengthen the momentum of JSA, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2024 with a vision to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. By promoting community ownership and responsibility, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions. So far, more than 50 lakh rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures have been constructed across the country under this initiative, with around 2.52 lakh such structures in Karnataka (including 109 in Bengaluru Urban and 1,576 in Bengaluru Rural Districts) and 7.26 lakh structures in Chhattisgarh.

Further, strengthening of ground water sources for drinking water schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission is also an important thrust area under JSA & JSJB programmes. Thus far, more than 38,000 artificial recharge works have been constructed and geo-tagged in the country, including in Karnataka and Chhattisgarh, through convergence with MGNREGS, Finance Commission grants to rural local bodies/ PRIs, MP & MLA's Local Area Development Fund, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR fund etc. to augment source sustainability of drinking water sources.

- iii. To further boost the water conservation works in the country, under the 'National Initiative on Water Security', it has been decided to spend at least 65% of MGNREGS funds on water conservation works in Over-Exploited (OE) and Critical Blocks of the country and 40% in Semi-critical Blocks and 30% in Safe Blocks and the scheme provisions have been amended to that effect.

- iv. Atal Bhujal Yojana was a pilot project for community led sustainable management of ground water, implemented across 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar

Pradesh. In Karnataka, the Scheme was implemented in 1,199 GPs of 14 districts, including Bengaluru Rural district. Under the scheme, community-based preparation of Water Budgets (WBs) and Water Security Plans (WSPs) was completed and annually updated for all covered GPs.

Construction/rejuvenation of more than 25,000 water harvesting and artificial recharge structures were done and an area of around 2.13 lakh Hectares were brought under efficient irrigation practices. As a result, 826 out of 1,199 GPs have shown improvement in ground water levels during periodic assessments conducted from 2023 to 2025.

- v. Mission Amrit Sarovar was also 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. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country, with 4,056 sarovars in Karnataka (including 148 in Bengaluru Rural District) and 2,901 in Chhattisgarh.
- vi. Central Ground Water Board under its National Aquifer Mapping & Management (NAQUIM) Programme, has covered the entire mappable area of 25 lakh sq. kms of the country and district level aquifer maps along with appropriate aquifer management plans, containing recommendations for various recharge structures, have been shared with all State and District administrations, including for Karnataka and Chhattisgarh, for taking further field implementation. Subsequent to this CGWB has initiated NAQUIM 2.0, wherein state of the art technologies are being used for generation of aquifer information of high granularity and preparation of village/Block level management plans.
- vii. CGWB has also prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 for the entire country, including Karnataka and Chhattisgarh states and shared with States/UTs for serving as a technical guidebook for construction of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *542 TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026 REGARDING “GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AND WATER CONSERVATION”

Comparative Analysis of State-wise Ground Water Levels of Post-Monsoon 2025 with Decadal Mean water levels (Post-Monsoon 2015 to 2024)

S. N. o.	State /UT Name	No Of wells analysed	No. & % of wells showing change in water level												Total No. of wells			
			Rise						Fall						Rise		Fall	
			0 to 2 m	%	2 to 4 m	%	> 4 m	%	0 to 2 m	%	2 to 4 m	%	> 4 m	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	106	83	78.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	22	20.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	83	78.30	22	20.75
2	Andhra Pradesh	603	383	63.5	96	15.9	56	9.3	55	9.1	10	1.7	3	0.5	535	88.72	68	11.28
3	Arunachal Pradesh	18	8	44.4	1	5.6	0	0.0	9	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	50.00	9	50.00
4	Assam	221	147	66.5	9	4.1	2	0.9	56	25.3	4	1.8	2	0.9	158	71.49	62	28.05
5	Bihar	591	337	57.0	36	6.1	3	0.5	204	34.5	8	1.4	0	0.0	376	63.62	212	35.87
6	Chandigarh	10	4	40.0	1	10.0	0	0.0	3	30.0	1	10.0	1	10.0	5	50.00	5	50.00
7	Chhattisgarh	727	450	61.9	74	10.2	15	2.1	166	22.8	18	2.5	3	0.4	539	74.14	187	25.72
8	Delhi	76	28	36.8	13	17.1	23	30.3	8	10.5	2	2.6	2	2.6	64	84.21	12	15.79
9	Goa	68	58	85.3	4	5.9	2	2.9	2	2.9	1	1.5	0	0.0	64	94.12	3	4.41
10	Gujarat	636	240	37.7	113	17.8	110	17.3	139	21.9	19	3.0	15	2.4	463	72.80	173	27.20
11	Haryana	243	86	35.4	36	14.8	28	11.5	45	18.5	26	10.7	22	9.1	150	61.73	93	38.27
12	Himachal Pradesh	89	57	64.0	9	10.1	5	5.6	16	18.0	1	1.1	1	1.1	71	79.78	18	20.22
13	Jammu & Kashmir	207	123	59.4	5	2.4	5	2.4	65	31.4	6	2.9	1	0.5	133	64.25	72	34.78
14	Jharkhand	271	149	55.0	34	12.5	4	1.5	78	28.8	4	1.5	0	0.0	187	69.00	82	30.26
15	Karnataka	1110	577	52.0	127	11.4	57	5.1	304	27.4	29	2.6	12	1.1	761	68.56	345	31.08
16	Kerala	1397	772	55.3	70	5.0	26	1.9	470	33.6	37	2.6	14	1.0	868	62.13	521	37.29
17	Madhya Pradesh	1036	506	48.8	237	22.9	115	11.1	141	13.6	21	2.0	14	1.4	858	82.82	176	16.99
18	Maharashtra	1580	872	55.2	273	17.3	121	7.7	246	15.6	46	2.9	19	1.2	1266	80.13	311	19.68

19	Meghalaya	44	11	25.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	72.7	1	2.3	0	0.0	11	25.00	33	75.00
20	Nagaland	11	3	27.3	1	9.1	1	9.1	2	18.2	2	18.2	1	9.1	5	45.45	5	45.45
21	Odisha	1171	749	64.0	60	5.1	6	0.5	327	27.9	19	1.6	1	0.1	815	69.60	347	29.63
22	Puducherry	8	5	62.5	0	0.0	1	12.5	1	12.5	1	12.5	0	0.0	6	75.00	2	25.00
23	Punjab	185	80	43.2	17	9.2	9	4.9	38	20.5	17	9.2	23	12.4	106	57.30	78	42.16
24	Rajasthan	849	221	26.0	169	19.9	208	24.5	125	14.7	52	6.1	73	8.6	598	70.44	250	29.45
25	Tamil Nadu	800	352	44.0	169	21.1	112	14.0	125	15.6	23	2.9	15	1.9	633	79.13	163	20.38
26	Telangana	394	138	35.0	115	29.2	106	26.9	30	7.6	2	0.5	2	0.5	359	91.12	34	8.63
27	The Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	20	8	40.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	10	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	10	50.00	10	50.00
28	Tripura	86	47	54.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	43.0	2	2.3	0	0.0	47	54.65	39	45.35
29	Uttar Pradesh	569	320	56.2	66	11.6	22	3.9	134	23.6	21	3.7	6	1.1	408	71.70	161	28.30
30	Uttarakhand	143	59	41.3	15	10.5	12	8.4	45	31.5	3	2.1	8	5.6	86	60.14	56	39.16
31	West Bengal	606	455	75.1	26	4.3	9	1.5	102	16.8	6	1.0	5	0.8	490	80.86	113	18.65
	Total	13875	7328	52.8	1777	12.8	1059	7.6	3037	21.9	382	2.8	243	1.8	10164	73.25	3662	26.39

***49 wells show no change in water level. Further, CGWB did not have groundwater monitoring stations in Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Ladakh and Lakshadweep during the above period**
