

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1137

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

**RESTORATION OF LAKES/PONDS/WELLS/STEP-WELLS FOR GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT**

†1137. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) the number of lakes, ponds, water tanks, wells and step-wells in the country along with their current status;
- (b) the details of the efforts made for their renovation and restoration for groundwater management during the last five years, State-wise;
- (c) the methods being adopted to recharge groundwater;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that lakes, ponds, water tanks, wells and step-wells have been illegally encroached upon by anti-social elements in various parts of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken against such encroachers so that groundwater can be protected for the future, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted the 1st Census of Water Bodies in 33 States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Irrigation Census” with reference year 2017-18 with 100% central assistance. Details on number of water bodies including lakes, ponds, tanks etc. along with number of water bodies ‘in use’ are given at **Annexure-I**.

(b) & (c) Ministry provides Central Assistance (CA) to States for creation and restoration of Irrigation Potential (I.P.) under the Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies schemes which is a part of ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Har Khet Ko Pani’ (PMKSY-HK KP). Under this scheme, Ministry has released a Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 376.12 crore during last five years. Also, Mother Sanction amounting to Rs. 218.265 crore has been issued during FY2025-26 till date to the States for the implementation of ongoing RRR of Water Bodies schemes under PMKSY-HK KP. State wise details during last five years are given in **Annexure-II**.

The Ministry has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019 as a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign in 256 water-stressed districts. Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) with the tagline: Catch The Rain, Where It falls, When It Falls, was expanded pan India in 2021,

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 (rural as well as urban).

The 6th edition of JSA: CTR was launched on 22nd March 2025 with the theme “Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari: Jan Jagrukta Ki Or”. The objective of Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) is to ensure that every drop of water is conserved through collective efforts, following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. Under JSJB 1.0, total 27.62 lakh artificial groundwater recharge and storage works were taken up, with 23.83 lakh already completed by 31st May 2025.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under Ministry of Jal shakti has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. Under National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project, the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km of the country has been completed. The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures. Under Ground Water Management & Regulation scheme, CGWB has implemented several successful artificial recharge projects in the country for demonstrative purpose which enables the State Governments to replicate the same in suitable hydro geological conditions.

(d) & (e) Action on reported encroachment of water bodies comes under the purview of the State Government concerned. However, the Union Government has been sensitizing the State Governments regarding importance of water bodies. Need for taking necessary steps for keeping the water bodies encroachment free, such as stopping illegal construction, inclusion of water bodies in land records and making them integral part of town planning process, strict action against encroachers, etc. are also being emphasized to the State Governments by Union Government, from time to time.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1137 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.02.2026 REGARDING “RESTORATION OF LAKES/PONDS/WELLS/STEP-WELLS FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT”

Type-wise number of water bodies and number of ‘in use’ water bodies in the country as per 1st Water Bodies Census

Type of Water body	Total Number of Water bodies	Number of Water bodies in use
Ponds	14,42,993	11,81,077
Tanks	3,81,805	3,15,974
Lakes	22,361	9,558
Reservoirs	2,92,280	2,89,163
Water Conservation Schemes/percolation tanks/check dams	2,26,217	1,88,915
Other	58,884	45,353
Total	24,24,540	20,30,040

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF THE UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1137 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.02.2026 REGARDING “RESTORATION OF LAKES/PONDS/WELLS/STEP-WELLS FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT”

State –wise details of CA release under the RRR of Water Bodies component of PMKSY-HKKP

(Rs. In crore)

S.No.	State	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Bihar	0	8.62	7.28	7.78	0
2	Gujarat	0	0	3.16	2.57	0
3	Manipur	0	0	0	3.7	0
4	Nagaland	0	0	0	5.61	10.13
5	Odisha	34.54	0	11.10	56.25	46.67
6	Rajasthan	0	0	9.30	10.46	35.99
7	Tamil Nadu	1.25	17.43	27.70	49.60	26.98
Total		35.79	26.05	58.54	135.97	119.77
