GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 928

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

ASSESSMENTS REGARDING DEPLETING GROUNDWATER LEVELS

928. Smt. MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:
SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:
SHRI MAHESH KASHYAP:
Dr. MANNA LAL RAWAT:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI BHOJRAJ NAG:
SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL:
SHRI P C MOHAN:
SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:
SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL:
SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN:
SHRI PRAVEEN PATEL:
SHRI TEJASVI SURYA:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI KOTA SRINIVASA POOJARY:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI AVIMANYU SETHI:
SHRI YADUVEER WADIYAR:
Dr. K SUDHAKAR:
SHRI P P CHAUDHARY:
SHRI KHAGEN MURMU:
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY:

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

(a) whether the recent assessments indicate further depletion of groundwater levels in critical over-exploited blocks of the country, particularly in Odisha including Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency, Karnataka including Dakshina Kannada and Chikkaballapur districts and in/around Bengaluru, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the manner in which the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) has progressed in the participating States including Karnataka and UT of Jammu and Kashmir during the last five years;

(c) the number of supply-side structures that have been constructed/renovated for water conservation and groundwater recharge in Rajasthan, particularly in Pali Lok Sabha Constituency;

(d) whether the data-driven tools are being used for aquifer mapping, groundwater monitoring and assessment including digital platforms and remote sensing in the country, particularly in Odisha including Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency and Karnataka including Bengaluru and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the corrective and remedial measures planned for recharge of over-exploited aquifers and groundwater sustainability in the country including Rajasthan, Bengaluru region and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency;

(f) whether the Government has undertaken any interventions and district-specific assessment of groundwater depletion, aquifer stress, drinking-water sustainability and the targeted interventions proposed or implemented in the coastal districts of Odisha, particularly Bhadrak and Balasore districts and Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency and if so, the details thereof along with the outcomes observed so far; and

(g) the steps being taken to revive water conservation structures such as ponds, etc. associated with religious institutions such as temples?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being assessed annually by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in co-ordination with the State Governments. Upon comparison of data between years 2017 and 2025, it is seen that overall ground water situation of the country has steadily improved with percentage of 'Safe' Assessment Units (AUs, which are generally Blocks/Taluks/Tehsils, or valleys in hilly regions) increasing from 62.6% to 73.14% and that of 'Over-Exploited' Units decreasing from 17.2% to 10.8%. Further, all Assessment Units of Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency of Odisha (spanning over Nabarangpur, Koraput and Malkangiri districts), Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir have been categorized as 'Safe' in both assessment years. However, all Assessment Units of Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka were falling under 'Over-Exploited' category during both years.

(b) Atal Bhujal Yojana was one of its kind pilot scheme for community led participatory management of ground water implemented in 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) across 7 States viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra & Karnataka. During its tenure, community led Water Budgeting and preparation of Water Security Plans (WSPs) was done and annually updated for all participating GPs. Further, around 83,000 artificial recharge and water conservation structures were constructed and more than 9 lakh hectares of land was brought under efficient irrigation practices in the scheme implementation area, leading to improvement in ground water levels in 180 Blocks out of 229. Atal Bhujal Yojana was not implemented in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) Efforts of the Central government for augmenting the water/groundwater resources of the country, are mainly channeled through the flagship campaign of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). JSA is a time bound and mission mode programme being conducted annually since 2019 by the M/o Jal Shakti, covering both rural and urban areas. As per the data available on JSA dashboard, around 6.66 lakh such works have been constructed/rejuvenated in Rajasthan since 2021, with around 12,600 in Pali district.

To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) has been launched with a vision to make rain water harvesting a mass movement in the country. Under this campaign, so far more than 4.16 lakh structures have been completed in Rajasthan and more than 3,800 for Pali district, through convergence.

(d) On the technological front, the government is employing a range of state of the art digital and technological tools for all round mapping, monitoring and planning in ground water sector, which cover the entire country, including Nabarangpur Lok Sabha Constituency and Karnataka, including Bengaluru.

Some of the prominent ones that can be cited are, use of high end Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for aquifer mapping under NAQUIM programme of CGWB, High resolution heli-borne surveys, creation of a nation-wide network of Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) with telemetry for real time ground water data generation and sharing, creation of web-based INGRESS platform for ground water resource assessment, collaborations with apex technological agencies like (BISAG -N) and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad for generating detailed aquifer maps and identifying recharge zones etc.

(e) & (f) The endeavours of the Government for aquifer mapping, ground water monitoring, assessment and preparation of suitable management plans cover the entire country, including Rajasthan, Bengaluru region, Nabarangpur Lok Sabha constituency, coastal districts of Odisha, including Bhadrak and Balasore districts. However, it may be appreciated that 'Water' being a State subject, sustainable development and management of water and groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, on its part, facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. The major steps taken in this direction are provided below:

i. Under the annual mission mode Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain campaign completion/rejuvenation of around 1.23 cr water conservation and artificial recharge works has been coordinated through convergence in the country since 2021 (through convergence with MGNREGS alone), which has played a key role in enhancing the sustainability of ground water resources. Further, under the JSJB mass movement for scaling up ground water recharge and rain water harvesting, more than 40 lakh structures have been created/revived so far. Moreover, under JSA, 712 Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been established at district level and 640 District Water Conservation Plans have been prepared.

ii. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Government of India which aimed at developing and rejuvenating water bodies in each district of the country. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country leading to enhanced water storage and ground water recharge.

iii. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA & FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop Scheme since 2015-16, which focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation leading to conservation of ground water.

iv. After the successful completion of NAQUIM 1.0, under which aquifers were mapped for the entire 25 lakh sq. kms mappable area of the country, providing a macro-level understanding of our nation's groundwater resources, the Central Ground Water Board has now embarked upon NAQUIM 2.0, focusing on water stressed and quality affected pockets. Under NAQUIM 2.0 state-of-the-art technologies are harnessed, for generating highly detailed, scientific data which serve as an important tool for making informed decisions for sustainable groundwater management.

v. With an objective to ensure sustainability of water resources in urban areas, M/o Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), GoI, has been implementing AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0 Schemes, which are major initiatives to improve the quality of life in cities, enabling them to become 'self-reliant' and 'water secure'. Rejuvenation of urban water bodies is an important thrust area under the scheme.

vi. Under Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) of MoHUA, priority cities have been selected for addressing groundwater depletion and water logging, by taking up over 35 pilot recharge structures in 6 cities in various parts of the country.

vii. CGWB has also prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020, for the entire country providing a broad outline for construction of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country. The Master plan has been shared with State/UT administrations for taking up suitable field interventions.

(g) Construction and revival of water conservation structures like ponds, tanks, bawdis etc. is one of the key pillars of the Government's strategy to enhance water storage and availability and augment ground water recharge. Through various programmes like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari, Mission Amrit Sarovar and Natural Resource management (NRM) component of MGNREGS, consistent efforts are being made to revive traditional water bodies, including those associated with religious institutions, through active community involvement, for maximizing the benefits for the entire village/locality.

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