

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 958

ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

INABILITY OF CGWB TO ASSESS GROUNDWATER STATUS IN KOLKATA

958. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) was unable to determine the status of the groundwater situation in Kolkata in its 2024 Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for the inability of CGWB to assess Kolkata's groundwater status including constraints related to confined aquifer systems, data scarcity and monitoring limitations;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to initiate targeted studies, increase monitoring networks and conduct detailed aquifer mapping in Kolkata to enable accurate assessment and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the timeframe within which a comprehensive and reliable groundwater status report for Kolkata is expected to be available?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) annually conducts Dynamic Ground water Resource Assessment of the entire country, including West Bengal, in co-ordination with the State governments. As per the latest assessment report of 2025, in Kolkata district of West Bengal, there is only one Assessment Unit, namely Kolkata Municipal Corporation, which has been categorized as Saline.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources, including their monitoring and mapping, 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.

CGWB, under the Ground Water Management & Regulation (GWM&R) Scheme, undertakes regular activities related to the exploration, monitoring, assessment, and management of groundwater resources across the country, including Kolkata city.

Under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM), aquifer maps along with aquifer-specific management plans have been prepared for Kolkata city, recommending suitable interventions for sustainable groundwater management.

Moreover, CGWB's groundwater monitoring stations in Kolkata have been systematically increased over the years. From 34 National Hydrograph Network Stations (NHNS) during 2022, the numbers have risen to 56 established NHNS stations in 2025.

The data generated through regular monitoring of such stations as well as study reports prepared for aquifer mapping & management, which give a detailed picture of ground water status of Kolkata, are regularly shared with concerned state/urban administrations and are also made available in the public domain.
