

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 698

ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT OF WATER SCARCITY

698. Shri MANICKAM TAGORE B:

Shri VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the extent of water scarcity across States due to declining groundwater levels, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the groundwater depletion has reached critical levels in certain regions, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any programmes for groundwater recharge and conservation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the rainwater harvesting has been effectively promoted nationwide, if so, the details thereof including the targets set and achievements made and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the watershed development programmes have improved water availability in rural areas, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether adequate funds have been allocated for water conservation schemes, if so, the details thereof including their utilisation status and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are assessed annually by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in collaboration with the State Governments. As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment, 2025, the total Annual Ground Water Recharge has been assessed at 448.52 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM), the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource at 407.75 BCM and the total Annual Ground Water Extraction at 247.22 BCM. The Stage of Ground Water Extraction for the country has been assessed at 60.63 per cent.

Out of 6,762 assessment units (Blocks/Talukas/Mandals), 730 (10.80%) have been categorised as Over-exploited, 201 (2.97%) as Critical, 758 (11.21%) as Semi-Critical, 4,946 (73.14%) as Safe and 127 (1.88%) as Saline. The State/UT-wise details of groundwater resources are provided through link given below.

<https://www.jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/static/uploads/2025/11/711d8d476bbf498cd90f8038e7371227.pdf>

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country. As per the post-monsoon 2025 monitoring, about 90 per cent of the analysed wells recorded groundwater levels between 0 and 10 metres below ground level. The State-wise depth-to-water level distribution is given at **Annexure**.

Comparison of the Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessments of 2017 and 2025 indicates an increase in annual groundwater recharge from 431.86 BCM to 448.52 BCM, a reduction in annual groundwater extraction and a decline in the Stage of Ground Water Extraction from 63.33 per cent to 60.63 per cent. During the same period, the proportion of assessment units categorised as Safe increased from 63 per cent to 73.14 per cent, while the proportion of Over-exploited assessment units declined from 17 per cent to 10.80 per cent. These trends reflect the sustained efforts of the Central and State Governments towards scientific groundwater management and conservation.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical guidance, policy support and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes. The major initiatives taken to promote groundwater recharge, conservation and rainwater harvesting are as follows:

- i. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) regulates groundwater extraction in the country through the Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 and amendments thereto. The Guidelines mandate implementation of rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge measures by industries, infrastructure and mining projects for obtaining No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for groundwater withdrawal and prescribe various water conservation measures.
- ii. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) covering about 25 lakh sq. km of the mappable area of the country. Aquifer maps and management plans have been shared with the State Governments for implementation. Building upon this, NAQUIM 2.0 has been initiated for detailed aquifer mapping in priority areas such as water-stressed regions, groundwater quality-affected areas, coastal areas, urban agglomerations, industrial clusters and springsheds to facilitate scientific groundwater management and recharge planning.
- iii. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) is an annual mission-mode campaign focusing on water conservation, rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, reuse and recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation. As per the available information, more than 2 crore water conservation and artificial recharge works have been undertaken across the country through convergence under JSA.
- iv. The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched in 2024, promotes community participation in rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and water conservation. Thus far, more than 1.55 crore

artificial groundwater recharge and water storage works have been constructed across the country under the initiative. Subsequently, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari–Catch the Rain (JSJB-CTR) campaign was launched on 1st June, 2026 to further promote rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge across the country.

- v. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched to develop and rejuvenate at least 75 water bodies in every district of the country. Nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been developed/rejuvenated, contributing to enhanced water storage and groundwater recharge.
- vi. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has issued the Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016, which provide for rooftop rainwater harvesting in specified categories of buildings. So far, 35 States/UTs have incorporated these provisions in their respective building bye-laws to promote rainwater harvesting and augment groundwater recharge.

(e) Watershed Development Programmes are being implemented by the Department of Land Resources under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY). The programme promotes integrated development of rainfed and degraded lands through soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, drainage line treatment, afforestation and other watershed interventions, thereby contributing to improved water availability and sustainability of natural resources in rural areas. As per the Management Information System (MIS) of the Department of Land Resources, about 10.79 lakh hectares of degraded/rainfed land have been treated, over 1.22 lakh water harvesting structures have been created/rejuvenated, about 3.20 lakh hectares have been covered under soil and moisture conservation measures, about 3.06 lakh hectares have been brought under protective irrigation and about 24 lakh farmers have benefited under the programme.

(f) Water being a State subject, planning, funding and implementation of water conservation and groundwater recharge works are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments through their own resources and under various Central and State schemes. Under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB–G RAM G], water-related works have been accorded the highest priority, with expenditure on such works to be prioritised at not less than 65 per cent in Over-exploited and Critical blocks, 40 per cent in Semi-Critical blocks and 30 per cent in Safe blocks. Further, under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)–Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP), financial assistance has been provided to the States for implementation of the Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies components, with Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 993.87 crore released during 2025-26.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 698 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 23.07.2026 REGARDING “ASSESSMENT OF EXTENT OF WATER SCARCITY”.

State-wise Depth to Water Level Distribution of Percentage of Observation Wells Post-Monsoon 2025

Sr. No.	State/UT Name	No of well analysed	No./Percentage of wells showing depth to water level (mbgl) in the range of											
			0 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 20		20 to 40		> 40	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	109	102	93.6	7	6.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2	Andhra Pradesh	801	463	57.8	219	27.3	78	9.7	25	3.1	11	1.4	5	0.6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	28	11	39.3	13	46.4	3	10.7	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
4	Assam	413	203	49.2	172	41.6	29	7.0	7	1.7	2	0.5	0	0.0
5	Bihar	874	216	24.7	554	63.4	103	11.8	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
6	Chandigarh	12	0	0.0	3	25.0	2	16.7	2	16.7	3	25.0	2	16.7
7	Chhattisgarh	934	240	25.7	558	59.7	122	13.1	12	1.3	2	0.2	0	0.0
8	Delhi	120	18	15.0	31	25.8	41	34.2	17	14.2	12	10.0	1	0.8
9	Goa	72	26	36.1	26	36.1	16	22.2	4	5.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
10	Gujarat	997	207	20.8	461	46.2	223	22.4	77	7.7	26	2.6	3	0.3
11	Haryana	350	54	15.4	66	18.9	49	14.0	76	21.7	64	18.3	41	11.7
12	Himachal Pradesh	169	40	23.7	61	36.1	30	17.8	17	10.1	15	8.9	6	3.6
13	Jammu & Kashmir	345	96	27.8	139	40.3	54	15.7	31	9.0	17	4.9	8	2.3
14	Jharkhand	493	96	19.5	319	64.7	76	15.4	2	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0
15	Karnataka	1168	369	31.6	427	36.6	326	27.9	45	3.9	1	0.1	0	0.0
16	Kerala	1466	316	21.6	503	34.3	531	36.2	104	7.1	11	0.8	1	0.1
17	Madhya Pradesh	1451	351	24.2	734	50.6	313	21.6	52	3.6	1	0.1	0	0.0
18	Maharashtra	2303	744	32.3	1079	46.9	396	17.2	70	3.0	12	0.5	2	0.1
19	Manipur	4	2	50.0	2	50.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
20	Meghalaya	72	33	45.8	37	51.4	2	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
21	Mizoram	9	7	77.8	2	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
22	Nagaland	91	38	41.8	31	34.1	22	24.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
23	Odisha	1330	577	43.4	672	50.5	80	6.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	0	0.0
24	Puducherry	9	4	44.4	4	44.4	1	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
25	Punjab	267	29	10.9	51	19.1	36	13.5	65	24.3	62	23.2	24	9.0
26	Rajasthan	1180	256	21.7	195	16.5	128	10.8	138	11.7	200	16.9	263	22.3
27	Sikkim	1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
28	Tamil Nadu	921	290	31.5	361	39.2	203	22.0	59	6.4	7	0.8	1	0.1
29	Telangana	539	203	37.7	238	44.2	79	14.7	16	3.0	2	0.4	1	0.2
30	The Dadra And Nagar Haveli And Daman And Diu	41	7	17.1	30	73.2	4	9.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
31	Tripura	101	33	32.7	57	56.4	11	10.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
32	Uttar Pradesh	1103	278	25.2	465	42.2	217	19.7	117	10.6	25	2.3	1	0.1
33	Uttarakhand	191	16	8.4	44	23.0	51	26.7	29	15.2	33	17.3	18	9.4
34	West Bengal	719	323	44.9	329	45.8	51	7.1	15	2.1	1	0.1	0	0.0
	Total	18683	5648	30.2	7890	42.2	3277	17.5	984	5.3	507	2.7	377	2.0

mbgl -Metres below ground level

CGWB did not have groundwater monitoring stations in Ladakh and Lakshadweep during the above period
