

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 85

ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI (JSJB) INITIATIVE

85. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM SHRI NEERAJ DANGI

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has a concrete strategy to construct one million rainwater harvesting structures under the Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any specific regions or water-stressed districts have been prioritised under this initiative, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that are in place to assess the effectiveness of these rainwater harvesting structures in achieving groundwater recharge and conservation goals?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative, launched under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR) campaign, aims to construct one million artificial recharge structures by 31st May 2025, across the country through a convergent and participatory approach. It leverages multiple funding sources, including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions, philanthropic donations, individual donations etc, among others. The initiative follows a whole-of-government and whole-of-society strategy, engaging Central Ministries, State governments, Rural and Urban Local Bodies, District administration, Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), Industry Associations, Civil Society, individual house owners, in a mission-mode implementation strategy. More than 4.5 lakhs artificial recharge structures has already been on-boarded, on the JSJB Dashboard. It underscores the government's strategic commitment towards arresting ground water depletion, offering local cost effective solutions and through community participation. An advisory has been issued in collaboration with Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) on 07.10.2024 to DMs/DCs & Municipal Corporations for implementation of this initiative. CGWB in collaboration with National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti has developed a document called "Simple and Practical Methods of Artificial Recharge of Groundwater Augmentation" in form of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to provide guidance and practical instructions for all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the JSJB initiative. Nodal officers from CGWB/CWC have been assigned to facilitate the stakeholders. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities

have been undertaken to widely disseminate the JSJB initiative. Therefore, the government has put in place a concrete strategy in its commitment for robust implementation of the JSJB initiative aiming towards water conservation and groundwater recharge, ensuring that every drop of rainwater is effectively harnessed for a water-secure future.

(b) No specific regions or water-stressed districts have been prioritised under this initiative. The initiative focuses on both rural and urban areas across the country encouraging cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions ensuring long-term sustainability.

(c) A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework has been implemented to ensure the effectiveness of recharge structures. The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Dashboard, a digital platform is provided to stakeholders to onboard each constructed recharge structure with photograph, geo tag and other details. To strengthen monitoring, Nodal Officers from the (CGWB) and the Central Water Commission (CWC), in collaboration with District Nodal Officers, oversee implementation, ensuring timely updates and verification of data. These Nodal Officers have been entrusted with the task of test checking 1% recharge structures to ensure the data authenticity & also for capacity building/training of the concerned Districts/ Corporations/ Nodal Officers. A dedicated cell is established in the National Water Mission for supporting & monitoring the activities of field officers of CWC/CGWB & Districts/Corporations. CWC and CGWB are entrusted to provide technical assistance for creation/renovation of artificial recharge structures.

Additionally, the dynamic groundwater resources of India undergo annual assessment through a collaborative effort involving State Governments and CGWB. These periodic assessments provide critical insights into groundwater replenishment, utilization trends and overall availability, aiding in informed decision-making for water resource management. District and State-level review mechanisms, along with capacity-building initiatives, ensure continuous monitoring and long-term sustainability.
