

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 472

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES IN TAMIL NADU

472. SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C

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

the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve groundwater resources in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

Water being a state subject and the responsibility of ground water management, including taking initiatives for improvement of ground water resources, lies primarily with the state governments. The Central Government complements the efforts of the States by providing technical support and financial assistance through its various projects and schemes. However, the Central Government has taken several steps in the direction of sustainable management of ground water resources of the country, including in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu and some of the important ones are mentioned below:

- i. The Government is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country since 2019 which is a mission mode and time bound programme for harvesting the rainfall and taking up water conservation activities. Currently, JSA 2024 is underway across the country. JSA is an umbrella campaign under which various ground water recharge and conservation related works are being taken up in convergence with various central and state schemes. In the past 3 years, construction of total 16,309 water conservation structures has been completed/ongoing under JSA in Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu.
- ii. National Aquifer Mapping Studies have been carried out for the entire mappable area of the country including Tamil Nadu. The total mappable area of Tirunelveli district has been covered under National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM). The District-wise groundwater management plans, containing recommendations for both demand and supply side interventions have been prepared and shared with State and District Authorities for implementation.

- iii. The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being annually assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and respective State Governments. As per the latest assessment in the year 2024, the Stage of Ground Water Extraction, which is a measure of Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses (irrigation, industrial and domestic uses) over Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 43% for Tirunelveli district, indicating that the District is under 'Safe' category.
- iv. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB with States/UTs providing a broad outline of the project and expected investments. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of water. The Master plan has been shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions .A total of 5,207 nos. of Rain water harvesting and Artificial recharge structures have been recommended for the Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.
- v. Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched by the Government of India which aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies in each district of the country, including Tamil Nadu. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country with 70 in Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu.
- vi. A total of 31 nos. Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) have been installed in Tirunelveli district to monitor the ground water level fluctuation and 2 nos. DWLRs with quality monitoring features have been installed. The data of said DWLRs are being shared with State Government for planning and management.
- vii. Central Ground Water Board organizes various Public Interaction Programs (PIP), Mass Awareness Programs (MAP), Tier II and Tier –III programmes on local ground water issues, including educating the public about the impacts of water contamination and promoting sustainable practices to maintain water quality. In Tirunelveli district, two PIPs have been organized so far.
- viii. Further, as per the information received from the Water Resources Department of Tamil Nadu, the State government has constructed 21 check dams and one artificial recharge structure each in Gadanadhi sub basin and Thamirabarani sub basin in Tirunelveli district.
