

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *419

ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN NAGPUR

†*419. SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE:

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

- (a) whether the groundwater level has declined to the level of 800 to 850 feet and a warning is being issued for its decline upto 1200 feet in Katol area of Nagpur and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the immediate and long-term measures taken by the Government to stabilise the groundwater level;
- (c) whether the water storage capacity of major dams in Nagpur and Amravati remained much below the average during 2023 and 2024 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to recharge and repair the said dams?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *419 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN NAGPUR”

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country four times in every year, including Katol Block of Nagpur District of Maharashtra. As per the measurement conducted during post monsoon (November), 2024 for Katol Block of Nagpur, around 87.5% of the monitored wells had ground water levels in the range 0-10 mbgl (meters below ground level).

Further, in order to assess the long-term fluctuation in ground water levels, the water level data for November 2024, has been compared with the decadal mean data, i.e. the mean of ground water levels of November months from 2014 to 2023. Such analysis indicates that around 57.1% of monitored wells in Katol Block have registered rise in ground water levels during November 2024, on comparison with the decadal mean.

Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources 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. In this direction, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries for conservation and sustainable development of ground water resources in the country, including Nagpur, Maharashtra, are given 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 2025 is being implemented in the country, including Nagpur, Maharashtra, with special focus on over-exploited and critical areas. 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. As per JSA dashboard, in the past 4 years, around 4,635 water harvesting and recharge works have been completed through coordination in Nagpur district. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, a community driven campaign of Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) has been launched which seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.
- ii. Further, CGWB has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project covering approximately 25 lakh square kms. of mappable area across the country, including 9892 sq.km area of Nagpur District, Maharashtra. Further, District-wise Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for taking up further suitable interventions.
- iii. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB and shared with States/UTs providing a broad outline for construction of around 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country with estimated cost to harness about 185 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water. The Master plan recommends about 3.51 lakh nos. of rainwater harvesting and recharge structures for Nagpur District of Maharashtra.

- iv. The Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana in 80 water stressed districts of 7 states, including Maharashtra, which has community led sustainable management of ground water resources and demand management as its core theme.
- 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. As an outcome nearly 69,000 Amrit Sarovars have been constructed/rejuvenated in the country, with 78 in Nagpur district.
- vi. M/o Jal Shakti promotes conjunctive use of surface and groundwater to reduce groundwater dependency. Under PMKSY-AIBP, surface water-based Major and Medium irrigation projects are being implemented in collaboration with States/UTs. In Maharashtra, 26 such projects have been taken up. Additionally, since 2018, a Special Package for Maharashtra has been devised which supports 83 Surface Minor Irrigation projects and 8 Major/Medium projects in drought-prone areas specifically in Vidarbha and Marathwada.
- vii. Ministry of Jal Shakti has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs including Maharashtra have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

(c) & (d) The primary responsibility for ensuring the safety, operation, maintenance and repair of dams lies with the respective dam owners, which predominantly use to be State Governments. As per the information received, the actual water storage capacities of major dams located in the Nagpur and Amravati districts of Maharashtra, as recorded at the end of the monsoon season (i.e. end of October) for the years 2023 and 2024, are provided in **Annexure**. According to the project authorities, the storage capacities for both years have been assessed as normal.

Further, to support dam safety and performance enhancement, the Government of India is implementing the externally funded Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and III. This initiative covers selected dams across 19 States, including Maharashtra. Under the Scheme, Maharashtra has been allocated rehabilitation works for 167 dams.

Nand and Wadgaon dams (part of Lower Venna project) located in Nagpur district and Sapan and Upper Wardha dams located in Amravati district have been included for comprehensive rehabilitation under DRIP.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *419 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025 REGARDING “DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL IN NAGPUR”

Water Storage Capacity of Major Dams in Nagpur District as on 31.10.2023							
Sr. No	Project	District	River	Project Storage (MCM)	Designed Capacity	Storage capacity at the end of Oct. 2023 (MCM)	Percentage (6/5)X100
1	2	3	4	5		6	8
1	Totladoh	Nagpur	Pench	1016.88		938.36	92.28
2	Kamthi Khairi	Nagpur	Pench	141.98		54.57	38.43
3	Khidsi	Nagpur	Sur	103.00		73.84	71.69
4	Nand (Lower Venna)	Nagpur	Nand	53.18		45.91	86.33
5	Wadgaon (Lower Venna)	Nagpur	Venna	134.89		129.93	96.32
	Total	Nagpur		1449.93		1242.61	85.70
Water Storage Capacity of Major Dams in Nagpur District as on 31.10.2024							
1	Totladoh	Nagpur	Pench	1016.88		1016.88	100.00
2	Kamthi Khairi	Nagpur	Pench	141.98		77.81	54.80
3	Khidsi	Nagpur	Sur	103.00		60.23	58.48
4	Nand (Lower Venna)	Nagpur	Nand	53.18		53.18	100.00
5	Wadgaon (Lower Venna)	Nagpur	Venna	134.89		133.57	99.02
	Total	Nagpur		1449.93		1341.67	92.53
Water Storage Capacity of Major Dams in Amravati District as on 31.10.2023							
1	Upper Wardha	Amravati	Pench	564.05		549.33	97.39
2	Sapan	Amravati	Morapatha	38.6		36.39	94.28
Water Storage Capacity of Major Dams in Amravati District as on 31.10.2024							
1	Upper Wardha	Amravati	Pench	564.05		564.05	100.00
2	Sapan	Amravati	Morapatha	38.6		38.6	100.00
