

COVERAGE UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

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Atal Bhujal Yojana, a community led participatory ground water management scheme, was implemented as a pilot scheme across 8,203 priority water stressed Gram Panchayats of seven states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The key objective of Atal Bhujal Yojana was to improve groundwater management in selected states through community participation and focusing on demand-side interventions, ensuring sustainability of the resource. The scheme aimed to achieve this objective by strengthening institutional and governance frameworks and by incentivizing states to implement groundwater conservation measures at grassroots level. The State-wise number of gram panchayats covered under the Scheme are as provided in **Annexure**.

Under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign, implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, one of the key interventions is the enumeration, geo-tagging and inventorization of water bodies to facilitate the preparation of scientific water conservation plans. District Collectors and Magistrates have been requested to enumerate water bodies using old revenue records, remote sensing data from the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping technology to mark boundaries, geo-tag structures and integrate data from the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) and State Water Resources Information Systems. This approach enables the development of data-driven scientific conservation plans.

In addition, a notable initiative in this regard is the development of the GIS-based sub-portal “Jal Dharohar”, operational in its beta version since 1st November, 2023, under the India-WRIS Portal. This portal presents a consolidated and geo-tagged database of water bodies across India and integrates data from multiple national programmes and sources, including the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Minor Irrigation Statistics, the First Census of Water Bodies and the National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC). It serves as a visual and spatial tool for awareness creation, planning and monitoring of water resources.

Water being a State subject, the Central Government plays only a supportive role by supplementing the efforts of the States through various technical, financial, and policy-level interventions.

In this direction, the government employs a range of state of the art digital and technological tools not only for mapping and monitoring water resources of the country, but also for planning precise policy interventions and evaluating performance of schemes. The following are a few noteworthy ones:

- National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM): The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing NAQUIM, utilizing advanced technologies such as Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for aquifer mapping, identifying recharge

zones and assessing source sustainability. Heliborne geophysical surveys are being deployed in specific areas for high-resolution subsurface data.

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** CGWB conducts real-time groundwater level monitoring through a nationwide network of around 23,000 Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) equipped with telemetry systems. This network facilitates the transmission of near real-time data on groundwater levels to a central server, helping in devising more focused conservation plans.
- **Web-based Platforms:** CGWB developed the India-Groundwater Resource Estimation System (INGRES), a web-based application that provides a standardized platform for groundwater resource assessment across the country. Such data forms the scientific basis for implementing schemes like MGNREGA, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan etc.
- **The JSA: CTR dashboard:** is a central digital platform created by the National Water Mission under this Ministry for monitoring, evaluating and managing the "Catch the Rain" (CTR) campaign under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA). It serves as a data collection and analysis hub to track progress on water conservation activities and facilitates the creation of scientific water conservation plans.
- **Reservoir level and Flood monitoring:** 'Flood Watch India' app, developed in-house by the Central Water Commission, utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts. The app provides information about 592 flood monitoring stations and also regarding the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs in the country.
- **GIS based monitoring:** Various irrigation/water conservation structures created under PMKSY- SMI, RRR, Atal Bhujal Yojana etc. are monitored through GIS based applications and tools.
- **Use of Satellite and Remote sensing data:** The Ministry is actively collaborating with agencies like Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG -N) and Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad for making use of satellite and remote sensing data for various kinds of mapping and monitoring of water resources.
- **Additionally,** extensive use of digital dashboards, web portals, mobile apps etc. is being made for collection and dissemination of data and performance monitoring of several schemes of the Ministry like PMKSY, NMCG, Atal Bhujal Yojana, MI census etc.

Pratapgarh and Udaipur districts of Rajasthan were not included under the Atal Bhujal Yojana and only Chittorgarh district was included under the Scheme. The major works carried out in the Chittorgarh district under the Atal Bhujal Yojana are as follows:

- About 3700 hectares area brought under efficient water-use practices like drip, sprinklers, pipelines, crop shifting (cotton/ paddy to pulses, millets, etc.) and other water saving methods (like polyhouse, mulching, etc.).
- More than 700 wells have been identified for groundwater level monitoring.
- Around 220 artificial recharge / water conservation structures have been geotagged.
- 31 Piezometers have been constructed in the district under the scheme.
- 40 rain gauge stations have been installed in Atal Jal Gram Panchayats.
- 337 supply-side structures have been constructed or renovated.
- 480 Gram Panchayat level trainings, 7 Block level trainings and 10 district level trainings have been conducted.

The information was provided by THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI **SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY** in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.

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(Lok Sabha USQ 1971)

ANNEXURE**State-wise number of gram panchayats covered under Atal Bhujal Yojana**

S. No.	State	Districts	Blocks	Gram Panchayats
1	Gujarat	6	36	1873
2	Haryana	14	36	1647
3	Karnataka	14	41	1199
4	Madhya Pradesh	6	9	670
5	Maharashtra	13	43	1133
6	Rajasthan	17	38	1132
7	Uttar Pradesh	10	26	549
Total		80	229	8203

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