

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2254
ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

INSTALLATION OF HANDPUMPS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

†2254. SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of handpumps have been installed for the purpose of drinking water in various areas of Himachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof indicating the total number of handpumps installed so far, district-wise;
- (b) whether the prior permission was mandatory for installation of handpumps by non-Governmental or private individuals/institutions and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to abolish the said permission system and if so, the details thereof along with the policy-based reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether concrete regulatory and monitoring measures are currently in place to prevent uncontrolled exploitation of groundwater, conserve water levels and ensure long-term drinking water security after the abolition of the said permission, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI V. SOMANNA)

(a) to (d) Since August 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal to make provision of tap water connection to every rural household of the country.

Drinking water being a state subject, under JJM, responsibilities for planning, approval, implementation, operation and maintenance of drinking water supply schemes lie with State/ UT governments. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State/ UT government by providing technical and financial assistance.

Under JJM, the water sources *inter alia* which include groundwater (open well, borewell, tube well, handpumps, etc.), ancient & traditional surface water (river, reservoir, lake, pond, springs, etc.) and rain water stored in small tanks are being used as sources for drinking water supply schemes. As numerous projects are implemented concurrently at various levels across the States for achieving the envisaged objectives, project-wise details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects are maintained at the State Government level.

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR) has informed that the aspects related to water resources, including its conservation & quality are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Role of the Government of India is limited to being catalytic, providing technical support and in some cases partial financial assistance in terms with the existing schemes being implemented by the D/o WR, RD and GR.

However, a number of measures being taken by Government of India for sustainable management of ground water across region *inter alia* including initiatives such as the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) and the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge (2020) encourage the implementation of rainwater harvesting structures. Additionally, National Water Policy has been formulated by DoWR, RD & GR, *inter-alia* advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. DoWR, RD & GR along with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments, conducts annual assessments of India's dynamic groundwater resources. CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including State of Himachal Pradesh. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1,14,242 Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in Himachal Pradesh. Apart from this, the important steps taken by the central government to promote rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge in the country including Himachal Pradesh can be seen at:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>

Ministry has also notified guidelines for regulation of ground water extraction by industries, infrastructure projects and mining projects vide SO 3289(E), dated 24.09.2020 and amendments thereto vide SO 1509(E), dated 29.03.2023 prescribing set of rules for issuance of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water extraction to these projects as per these guidelines having pan-India applicability. New major industries are not permitted to extract groundwater in over-exploited areas/ blocks. Ministry and CGWA have regularly been pursuing with States/ UTs to make necessary modifications/ amendments in their Acts/ Rules/ Guidelines to make them consistent with the central guidelines.

Besides, Ministry 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 Himachal Pradesh have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.
