GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4080**

ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

**SEVERE GROUNDWATER DEPLETION IN MALWA REGION**

4080 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the severe groundwater depletion and emerging reports of heavy metal contamination, including Uranium and Arsenic, in the Malwa region of the State of Punjab;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to the State under the Jal Jeevan Mission and the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) to address this crisis;

(c) the progress of surface-water-based supply projects implemented to provide safe drinking water to the affected border villages; and

(d) the timeline to achieve 100 per cent safe tap water connectivity in these high-risk areas?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

**(**SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

**(a)** Ground water level and quality monitoring in the country is conducted on a regular basis by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this Ministry and respective State Governments.

As per the data of ground water level monitoring conducted by CGWB during November/December 2025, in the Malwa region of Punjab (known to comprise of Barnala, Bhathinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarh Sahib, Fazilka, Firozpur, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Shri Muktsar Sahib, Patiala, Rupnagar, Sangrur and SAS Nagar districts**)**, out of 164 wells monitored,73 wells (44.51%) have registered water levels in the range of 0-10 meters below ground level (mbgl).

In order to assess the long-term fluctuation in ground water level, district-wise groundwater level data of November 2025 has been compared with the decadal mean of data of November (2015-2024)**.** Such comparative analysis indicates that about 45.1 % of the well monitored have registered rise in groundwater level.

Further, CGWB also generates groundwater quality data at a regional scale across the country including Malwa region of Punjab, through its groundwater quality monitoring programme and scientific studies conducted as per the approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

As per the Annual Ground Water Quality Report – 2025, out of 296 samples of ground water analyzed in Malwa region for heavy metal contamination, 9.12%, 3.72% and 53% samples were found to have Arsenic, Iron and Uranium respectively beyond the respective permissible limits.

**(b)** Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, being implemented by this Ministry in partnership with states, marks an important milestone for providing contamination free potable tap water to every rural household of the country, including Punjab, in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular & long-term basis. As per the data available on JJM dashboard, from August 2019 to March 2026, an amount of Rs.799.46 Cr has been released as Central share to Punjab and the total expenditure is Rs. 2084.18 Cr.

It is also to state that National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) is an organization based scientific study project of CGWB for the purpose of aquifer mapping and devising locally suited ground water management plans. Providing financial assistance to States is not within the mandate of NAQUIM.

**(c) & (d)** Drinking Water being a State subject, it's the responsibility of States/UTs to plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States/UTs by providing technical and financial assistance.

Under JJM, while allocating the funds to States/ UTs for provisioning tap water connection, 10% weightage has been given to the population residing in habitations affected by chemical contaminants including Uranium and Arsenic. Further, States/ UTs have been advised up to 2% of allocated fund could be utilised in water quality monitoring and surveillances. However, separate allocation is not done for water quality affected areas, including those which are affected with Uranium and Arsenic. States/ UTs have also been advised to plan and implement piped water supply schemes based on alternative safe water sources for the villages with water quality issues.

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