

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

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1514**

ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

**ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA IN UTTAR PRADESH**

1514

SHRI RAJESH VERMA

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR CHAUDHARY

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

- (a) the efforts being made to change the agricultural practices in the areas where 'Atal Bhujal Yojana' is being implemented which adversely affect the conservation of underground water;
- (b) the funds sanctioned by the Government for the implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana for the current financial year;
- (c) the status of implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise including Sitapur along with the details of the districts benefitted;
- (d) the districts of western Uttar Pradesh linked to the scheme along with the status of the work;
- (e) whether the Government has achieved success in arresting the rate of decline in ground water level in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Atal Bhujal Yojana targets community led sustainable ground water management through efficient irrigation practices and appropriate selection of crops.

In order to bring the change in the agricultural practices in selected area under this scheme, the communities have been mobilised through existing Village and Water Sanitation Committees and made aware regarding water use and availability in the area and subsequently water budgets have been prepared. These water budgets form the basis of Water Security Plans (WSPs), which are the fulcrum of this scheme. WSPs contain various demand side interventions such as such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines as well supply side interventions such as check dams, farm ponds, recharge shafts and other artificial recharge / water conservation structures, which are proposed by the community itself based upon the awareness creation and capacity building exercise which have been undertaken in this scheme. Further, focused Information, Education & Communication (IEC) with an

aim to bring behavioral change in the community in terms of managing demand of water are also being organized in all the Gram Panchayat. The scheme also provides incentives after achieving certain pre-defined targets, which can be, inter-alia, used in any innovative practices in agriculture which saves water or increases water use efficiency.

**(b)** Rs. 700 Cr. has been sanctioned for the Budget of 2022-23 under this Scheme.

**(c) & (d)** The scheme is being implemented in 550 Gram panchayats of 26 Blocks of 10 Districts of Uttar Pradesh including four Districts of Western Uttar Pradesh namely Muzzafarnagar, Shamli, Baghpat and Meerut. It is not implemented in Sitapur. A total of 200 Community led Water Security Plans (WSPs), have been prepared in these four Districts. Implementation of the WSPs are being done in the field with active involvement of communities through convergence of various Central / State Government Schemes by concerned line departments.

**(e) & (f)** In terms of achieving its objective, the Scheme has brought in change in the behaviour of the communities through various awareness generation activities. The Scheme is yet to reach to that stage where an arrest in the rate of ground water level decline can be measured. However, as per recent Ground Water Source Assessment 2022 as published by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), through the efforts of Government of India, including this scheme, there have been improvement in some of the Blocks of Uttar Pradesh such as Meerut, Muzzafarnagar etc.

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