

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 890

ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA IN PUNJAB

890. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY

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

- (a) the salient features of the Atal Bhujal Yojana which aims at improving ground water management in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the State of Punjab fulfils all the criteria for Atal Bhujal Yojana and the Central Government have received several requests for including Punjab in the scheme from the State Government of Punjab but the Central Government have still not included Punjab in the scheme;
- (c) if so, reasons therefor; and
- (d) details of the fund allocated and released under Atal Bhujal Yojana for various States, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme with a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore, is being implemented as a pilot in 8,203 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 229 administrative Blocks/Talukas in 80 districts of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Atal Bhujal Yojana is a unique scheme which marks a paradigm shift from groundwater development to community led sustainable groundwater management by targeting behavioural change. The scheme envisages institutional strengthening and capacity building of the village community at Gram Panchayat level through sustained information, education, communication (IEC) and training activities, regular monitoring and sharing of ground water data, preparation of Water Budgets (WBs) and Water Security Plans (WSPs) for the GPs by the community members themselves and accomplishment of such WSPs through convergence with various ongoing schemes. Both demand side interventions such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of underground pipelines etc. and supply side interventions such as check dams, farm ponds, recharge shafts and other artificial recharge / water conservation structures are taken up as per WSPs and states are incentivized for successful achievement of various performance indicators. Overall, the scheme aims to foster better ground water governance at grassroots level by empowering the community.

(b) & (c) Since Atal Bhujal Yojana has been conceived as a pilot project for participatory ground water management which has a fixed duration & outlay only limited number of States could be considered under the scheme. The participating States in Atal Bhujal Yojana were considered based on a number of criteria, including degree of groundwater exploitation and degradation, established legal and regulatory instruments, institutional readiness, and experience in implementing initiatives related to groundwater management. Willingness of states to participate in the scheme was also an important factor for inclusion.

(d) Atal Bhujal Yojana is a Program for Results scheme and allocation of funds is based on the performance of the participating States under various indicators. Further, the funds are fungible and allocation can be moved from under performing to better performing states.

The total amount of funds released, state-wise, as on 31.03.2025 under Atal Bhujal Yojana is as under:

(amount in Rs. Crores)

State	Released
Gujarat	595.57
Haryana	753.00
Karnataka	903.21
Madhya Pradesh	211.75
Maharashtra	643.82
Rajasthan	489.50
Uttar Pradesh	264.83
Total	3861.68
