

IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 71/2024 (CZ)

IN THE MATTER OF -

TAHIR HUSSAIN

.....APPLICANT

VERSUS

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI & ORS.

.....RESPONDENT

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Filed by

Central Ground Water Authority

Through

Place: Jaipur

Dated: 18-03-2026

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 Department of Water Resources, RD & GP  
 केंद्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड/Central Ground Water Board  
 पश्चिमी क्षेत्र, जयपुर/Western Region, Jaipur

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REPORT ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY  
IN COMPLAINE TO THE ORDER DATED 21.01.2026 PASSED BY  
THE HON'BLE TRIBUNAL.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:-

1. I, **Rakesh Kumar Kushwaha**, aged about **49 years**, working as **Regional Director**, Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, having office at **Central Ground Water Board**, Western Region, 6-A, Jhalana Doongari, Jaipur - 302004, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:-
2. That I am duly authorized to swear and file the report on behalf of CGWA and am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case based on official records.
3. That I have read and understood the contents of the present report and the contents mentioned in the report are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
4. That the present Original Application has been filed by the applicant raising issue of extraction of ground water by the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (RIICO) in 409 industrial areas situated in 33 districts of Rajasthan from illegal borewell for the purpose of

  
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commercial activities without having any permission from Central Ground Water Authority.

5. That the Hon'ble Tribunal vide para 9 of its order dated 21.01.2026 directed the CGWA to file a fresh report. The para 9 of the order dated 21.01.2026 is reproduced hereunder.

*"While going through the report the details of the works undertaken for recharge of ground water in the three States it has come to the notice that the report submitted by the CGWA is insufficient and incomplete in the sense as there is no mention about the total amount deposited by the PP year wise as ground water extraction/restoration charges/environmental compensation/application fees, also there is no mention of the amount which has been spent on various works undertaken in the three States. This Tribunal is equally concerned to know the impact of various works undertaken by the State Government /CGWA with reference to recharge/improvement of ground water in the three States. It is therefore, directed to submit the data of ground water recharge taken place through various works undertaken in last five years and its impact on ground water table in the States. This data needs to be compared with the quantity of ground water abstraction took place in last five years".*

6. That in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Tribunal, it is most respectfully submitted that the total amount deposited during last five years by the Project Proponents year wise, as ground water extraction/restoration charges/environmental compensation/application fees is tabulated below:

Rs.in Crore

Name of State	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 till Feb' 26	Total
Chhattisgarh	12.63	27.22	54.35	57.54	47.83	<b>199.58</b>
Madhya Pradesh	19.56	12.19	37.65	44.01	47.59	<b>161.00</b>
Rajasthan	31.41	44.48	56.91	88.66	80.15	<b>301.61</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.60</b>	<b>83.90</b>	<b>148.91</b>	<b>190.21</b>	<b>175.57</b>	<b>662.19</b>

  
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Furthermore, it is submitted that the charges levied by the CGWA are deposited by the Project Proponents directly into Consolidated Fund of India (CFI). As submitted earlier, Govt. of India implements schemes relating to water conservation/artificial recharge of which MGNREGS is the main scheme. Details of scheme have already submitted before Hon'ble Tribunal vide CGWA reply dated 17.11.2025. The said reply is available from Paper Book page number 1254 to 1263. It is reiterated here that in order to prioritize the areas for taking up water conservation measures under MGNREGA minimum per cent of works in terms of cost has been amended by Govt. of India, Ministry of Rural Development vide notification dated 23.09.2025, wherein funds will be utilized for water conservation, water harvesting and other water-related works as per following namely:-

- (a) 65 per cent in 'Over-exploited' and 'Critical' rural blocks;
- (b) 40 per cent in 'Semi-critical' rural blocks; and
- (c) 30 per cent in 'Safe' rural blocks.

Works completed under the prescribed activities under water conservation, water harvesting and allied activities in the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during last five years are summarized in the tables below:

#### Chhattisgarh

Year	Water Conservation	Watershed management	Traditional water bodies	Afforestation	Total
2021-22	15432	6258	6802	5666	34158
2022-23	14603	5852	7062	4315	31832
2023-24	13456	4690	7936	5828	31910
2024-25	17003	3728	9738	4934	35403
2025-26 till 15.03.2026	14402	3242	4938	2667	25249
<b>Total</b>	<b>74896</b>	<b>23770</b>	<b>36476</b>	<b>23410</b>	<b>158552</b>

## Madhya Pradesh

Year	Water Conservation	Watershed management	Traditional water bodies	Afforestation	Total
2021-22	103763	15497	3950	6884	130094
2022-23	71395	11725	6247	9233	98600
2023-24	72432	11833	7429	13846	105540
2024-25	54218	12916	3929	15905	86968
2025-26 till 15.03.2026	45913	7657	1698	7696	62964
<b>Total</b>	<b>347721</b>	<b>59628</b>	<b>23253</b>	<b>53564</b>	<b>484166</b>

## Rajasthan

Year	Water Conservation	Watershed management	Traditional water bodies	Afforestation	Total
2021-22	13100	2776	5279	5233	26388
2022-23	15168	2468	6145	5747	29528
2023-24	18836	2780	6267	8480	36363
2024-25	31808	5535	11036	12814	61193
2025-26 till 15.03.2026	10103	2005	3212	5094	20414
<b>Total</b>	<b>89015</b>	<b>15564</b>	<b>31939</b>	<b>37368</b>	<b>173886</b>

## Total works carried out in all three States during last 05 years

State	Water Conservation	Watershed management	Traditional water bodies	Afforestation	Total
Chhattisgarh	74896	23770	36476	23410	158552
Madhya Pradesh	347721	59628	23253	53564	484166
Rajasthan	89015	15564	31939	37368	173886
<b>Total</b>	<b>511632</b>	<b>98962</b>	<b>91668</b>	<b>114342</b>	<b>816604</b>

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Apart from the above, recharge structures constructed by CGWB/State Govt, during last five year are appended below:

State	Recharge Structures constructed by CGWB	Recharge Structures constructed by State Govt.
Chhattisgarh	02 no. of recharge wells at Jagdalpur and Deobhog in	5,43,223 (under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari

	the year 2024-25	1.0 and 2.0) structures were constructed by Chhattisgarh State under technical guidance of CGWB, NCCR, Raipur.
Madhya Pradesh	02 Recharge Shaft structures at <b>Village-Meghanagar, Meghanagar District-Jhabua &amp; Village-Uplai, Block-Jaora block, District-Ratlam</b>	44,536 (under Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari 1.0 and 2.0) structures were constructed by Madhya Pradesh State under technical guidance of CGWB, NCR, Bhopal.
Rajasthan	Ground Water Augmentation through artificial Recharge Project: CGWB took a project on 'Groundwater augmentation through artificial recharge in identified water stressed areas of Rajasthan, comprising part of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Sikar Barmer, Alwar and Jhunjhunu districts of Rajasthan. The structures constructed in the Project include check dams, anicuts and recharge shaft with ponds.  Two Dams have been constructed at Bastawa Mata and Indroka villages of Jodhpur district with the objectives of artificial recharge to groundwater aquifer systems.  Further 132 water harvesting structures have been completed in the part of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Sikar, Barmer, Alwar & Jhunjhunu Districts.	A total number of 3,15,565 WHS structures like Ponds, Farm Ponds, Anicuts, Check dams, Gabion Structures, Roof top rainwater Harvesting Structures , Soak Pits etc have been constructed in the state under JSJB 1.0 and 2.0 etc under technical guidance of CGWB, WR, Jaipur.

Furthermore, as directed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, comparison of ground water recharge with the quantity of ground water abstraction that took place in last five years in the abovementioned three states is summarized in the table below:

State	Ground water recharge Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)					Ground water qty. extracted Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)				
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 till date	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 till date
Chhattisgarh	12.05	13.34	14.18	14.30	Assessment in progress	5.46	5.75	6.12	6.30	Assessment in progress
Madhya Pradesh	35.24	35.47	35.99	36.07	Assessment in progress	19.25	19.30	19.85	20.26	Assessment in progress

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Rajasthan	12.07	12.45	12.58	12.87	Assessment in progress	16.45	16.73	17.05	17.09	Assessment in progress
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7. That the Hon'ble Tribunal also directed CGWA to play key role in the identification of the suitable sites in all districts in the States on the basis of relevant data as regards aquifers for carrying out the works in effective manner. State-wise details of technical assistance, scientific inputs, various awareness programmes etc. provided/conducted in the above three States during last 05 years are annexed herein and marked as **Annexure-I (colly)**.
8. That in light of the above facts and submissions, it is most respectfully submitted that the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has duly complied with the directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 21.01.2026. It is further submitted that the present Original Application was filed by the petitioner raising the issue of unlawful extraction of groundwater by the Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation (RIICO). In Civil Appeal No. 4481-82/2025, RIICO has filed an undertaking dated 09.03.2025 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, wherein it has expressed its willingness to discharge the liability towards penalty and other charges. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide order dated 24.03.2026, categorically held that "the appellant/Corporation cannot supply groundwater even for domestic use of the workers and employees in RIICO areas without permission of the Central Ground Water Authority." It is pertinent to note that no application has been received by CGWA from RIICO subsequent to the said order.
9. That it is further submitted that the answering Respondents remain committed to the regulation and sustainable management of groundwater resources in accordance with the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority from time to time.

  
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10. In light of the above, it is therefore most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to take the present report on record and pass such further order(s) as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

  
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**Through**

Place: Jaipur

Dated: 18-03-2026



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**Advocate**

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Chhattisgarh

1. Under the technical guidance of the Central Ground Water Board, NCCR, Raipur Dhamtari District, Chhattisgarh has received the **"Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2023 under the Innovation (District) category"**. The award was received for implementing a GIS-based water conservation plan, which resulted in the creation of 26 Amrit Sarovars and 156 rainwater harvesting structures.
2. Under the technical guidance of the Central Ground Water Board, NCCR, Raipur Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh achieved national recognition in water conservation by receiving first prize as the **best district in the East Zone** under the **"Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 1.0 Awards and the 6th National Water Award" for the year 2025**.
3. Artificial Recharge Master Plan 2020 shared with state government and is being implemented in Bemetara District.
4. Aquifer Management Plan/NAQUIM: 30 NAQUIM reports have been shared.
5. District Recharge Plan for 07 no. of districts shared.
6. Village wise data is being shared with MGNREGA for implementation of various schemes.
7. 08 nos. of district level workshops were conducted throughout the state for knowledge transfer and data dissemination.
8. 05 no. of Tier-II Training Program has been conducted throughout state in the last 5 years for capacity building of stake holders.
9. 14 no. of Tier-III Training Program has been conducted throughout state in the last 5 years for capacity building of stake holders.

  
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10. 45 no. of Public Interaction Program has been conducted throughout state in the last 5 years for capacity building of stake holders.
11. Technical Guidance for construction of recharge structures under JSJB 1.0 and 2.0.

**Madhya Pradesh**

- CGWB, NCR, Bhopal carried out National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) in all districts of Madhya Pradesh. The reports have been shared with all the concerned District Administration for implementation.
  - Under NAQUIM 2.0, CGWB, NCR, Bhopal carried out studies at 1:10,000 scale in the Bhopal Urban Agglomeration, Ujjain Industrial Area, water-stressed Alot Block of Ratlam district, the Anuppur-Dindori springshed area, and water-stressed Gram Panchayats (over-exploited areas in Ratlam) of Jaora and Piploda Blocks of Ratlam district, generating highly detailed, scientific report and shared with all the concerned district administration.
  - CGWB, NCR, Bhopal has prepared the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge-2020 for Madhya Pradesh and shared it with district administrations
  - Capacity building programmes for State Departments to strengthen their technical skills and knowledge for effective groundwater management and sustainable use of groundwater resources. It also provides training programmes, awareness campaigns, field demonstrations of artificial recharge structures, and stakeholder consultations.
- CGWB, NCR conducted 05 Tier-II, 14 Tier-III and 42 Public Interaction Programmes (PIP) during last 05 years to educate communities and stakeholders about groundwater conservation, sustainable use, and aquifer management.

  
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- CGWB, NCR, Bhopal conducted source sustainability training for the officer of Public Health Engineering Department Govt Of Madhya Pradesh.
- Under **JSJB 1.0 and JSJB 2.0** initiative CGWB officers are being appointed as Central Ministerial Nodal Officers (CMNOs) to oversee the implementation of water conservation projects and provide technical assistance. These officials work alongside district teams to ensure the construction, renovation, and verification of artificial groundwater recharge structures.
- Under **Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari 2.0 (JSJB)** initiative CGWB officers are being appointed as Nodal Officers in 7 over exploited and critical district of Madhya Pradesh to provide the technical guidance to district administration for the identification and implementation of Artificial Recharge and other water conservation structures in the concerned district.
- Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) officers of CGWB serve as Technical Officers in central teams that visit identified water-stressed districts to support the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR)** campaign. These teams, which also include Central Nodal Officers (CNOs), are assigned to districts with high percentages of "Over-Exploited" and "Critical" groundwater categories, as determined by CGWB assessments. from Ministry of Jal shakti in overexploited/critical category as per GWRE categorisation of CGWB.

### Rajasthan

- CGWB, WR, Jaipur carried out **National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM)** in all 33 districts of Rajasthan. The reports have been shared with all the concerned implementing Agencies and District Administration of the State for implementation.
- Under **NAQUIM 2.0**, CGWB, WR, Jaipur carried out four studies at 1:10,000 scale during AP 2023-24 i.e. Two Studies under

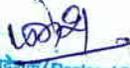
  
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Urban Agglomerates of Jaipur and Jodhpur and two studies under Industrial Clusters of Neemrana and Pali. All four Studies are completed and Reports are shared with the state implementing agencies. One Study is under progress in Urban Agglomerate of Udaipur.

- **Under (PIB) Project,** a total of 1508 Piezometers and 170 Exploratory/Observation wells are being constructed through outsourcing in the State of Rajasthan for high frequency automated monitoring of Ground Water Levels. The Piezometers are being fitted with Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLR) along with Telemetry system for real time monitoring of ground water level. Total 1508 Piezometers and 170 Exploratory/Observations Wells are being constructed and the project is in advanced stage of completion.
- **Heliborne Project:** The High-resolution aquifer mapping using heliborne geophysical studies have been taken up to address the current water crisis in north-western arid region of India and to scientifically derive aquifer geometry of principal aquifer with demarcation of de-saturated and saturated fresh / saline aquifers, 3D geophysical model, geophysical thematic maps at horizontal and vertical plane, identification of suitable sites for groundwater withdrawal and water conservation through managed aquifer recharge. In Phase – I of High resolution aquifer mapping using heliborne geophysical studies, 69,875 Sq. Km of western arid Rajasthan has been covered, comprising an area of covering parts of Bikaner, Churu, Ganaganagar, Jalore, Pali, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Sikar districts. The findings of Heliborne Studies have helped in identification of 77 potential Ground Water Drilling Sites, and Identification of 62 nos. of Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Sites and Delineation of Paleochannels in the survey Areas.

  
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- **CGWB, WR, Jaipur** has prepared the **Master Plan for Artificial Recharge-2020 for Rajasthan** and shared it implementing Agencies and District Administration of the State.
- **Capacity building programmes** for State Departments to strengthen their technical skills and knowledge for effective groundwater management and sustainable use of groundwater resources. It also provides training programmes, awareness campaigns, field demonstrations of artificial recharge structures, and stakeholder consultations.
- **The Atal Bhujal Yojana** implemented with assistance of World Bank in 38 blocks of 17 districts in the State by the State Government. The Ground Water Department, Govt. of Rajasthan is the State Nodal Department for the implantation of Atal Jal Scheme in Rajasthan. The tentative allocation is 164.68 crores for investment and 1094 crores for incentive component. The activities are under progress. Status of Atal Jal Yojana in Rajasthan.
- **Convergence Activities under MGNREGA:** CGWB provided technical guidance in execution of water conservation and artificial recharge structures under taken through MGNREGA wherein 47 Recharge Shaft in ponds were constructed in Mandalgarh Block of Bhilwara district and 81 Recharge Shaft in ponds were constructed in Reodhar Block of Sirohi district.
- **CGWB** conducts **Tier-II, Tier-III and Public Interaction Programmes (PIP)** to educate communities and stakeholders about groundwater conservation, sustainable use, and aquifer management.
- 5 Nos of Tier-II Trainings have been organized by CGWB WR, Jaipur during last 5 years to percolate message of water conservation and capacity building and to develop community participation and management approach in water sector

  
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- 15 Nos of Tier-III Trainings have been organized by CGWB WR, Jaipur during last 5 years to percolate message of water conservation and capacity building at grass root level and to develop community participation and management approach in water sector
- 30 Nos of Public Interaction Programms have been organized by CGWB WR, Jaipur during last 5 years to address the local ground water issues through community participation and management approach in water sector at village level. The Micro level Aquifer Management Plans of the local areas have been discussed during the Interactions.
- Mass Awareness Programms: More than 25 Mass Awareness Programms have been organized by CGWB WR, Jaipur during last 5 years.
- **Under JSJB 1.0 and JSJB 2.0** initiative CGWB officers are being appointed as Central Ministerial Nodal Officers (CMNOs) to oversee the implementation of water conservation projects and provide technical assistance. These officials work alongside district teams to ensure the construction, renovation, and verification of artificial groundwater recharge structures.
- **Under Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari 2.0 (JSJB)** initiative 15 nos. of CGWB officers are being appointed as Nodal Officers in over exploited and critical districts of Rajasthan to provide the technical guidance to district administration for the identification and implementation of Artificial Recharge and other water conservation structures in the concerned district.
- **Under Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)** officers of CGWB serve as Technical Officers in central teams that visit identified water-stressed districts to support the **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR)** campaign. These teams, which also include Central Nodal Officers (CNOs), are assigned to districts with high

  
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 जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग  
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percentages of "Over-Exploited" and "Critical" groundwater categories, as determined by CGWB assessments.

  
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