

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 752**

ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

**WATER SHORTAGE**

752. SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU

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

- (a) the manner in which the Government intend to address the varied degrees of moderate to severe water shortages in 11 main States, as indicated by the water poverty index;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to improve water quality given India's rating of 120 out of 122 nations on the water quality index;
- (c) the details of the policies that are being considered to address the critical need for effective water management, considering both quantity and quality of available water resources; and
- (d) the policies undertaken by the Government to respond to each State's specific water scarcity issues?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programs.

Cognizant to the situation of water scarcity in the country, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, consisting of two major components being implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, namely, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), and Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). HKKP, in turn, consists of four sub-components: (i) Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM); (ii) Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI); (iii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies; and (iv) Ground Water (GW) Development

Government of India, in partnership with State, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to make provision of tap water supply with adequate focus on the quality of tap water to every rural household of the country by 2024.

Atal Bhujal Yojana, a World Bank aided Central Sector Scheme of the Government of India with an outlay of Rs 6000 crore, is being implemented with a focus on community participation and demand side interventions for sustainable groundwater management in identified water stressed areas. The scheme is

being taken up in seven states, viz. Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Various important steps taken by the Central Government to address the water shortages and sustainable ground water management in the country can be seen at

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

**(b)** CGWB generates ground water quality data on a regional scale during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring throughout the country. Also, under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM), special attention has been given to various bio-chemical aspects of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic, Fluoride Iron etc. in ground water. Also, the exploratory wells constructed by CGWB which are free from contaminants are handed over to State Agencies for water supply. Further, Central Water Commission is also monitoring 782 river sites and 82 water bodies for various bio-chemical aspects of surface water quality monitoring purpose across various states of the country.

**(c) & (d)** The various policies/guidelines to address the effective water management are;

National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, 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. It also inter-alia, advocates conservation of river, water bodies and related infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner by ensuring community participation. Further, encroachment and diversion of water bodies and drainage channels must not be allowed and wherever, it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.

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 have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) 2016 circulated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States / UTs for the urban local bodies to adopt the same and ensure strict adherence to this bye-law.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the "Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. CGWA has advised States/UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting. CGWA grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects in feasible areas in certain States/UTs where regulation is not being done by the respective State/UTs. The latest guidelines for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability was notified by the Ministry on 24th September 2020.

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