

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:368
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2016
Critical Zones of Water Scarcity
Saini Shri Raj Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any study to identify critical zones in terms of water scarcity and low ground water level in the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government intends to bring special provisions to improve irrigation and drinking facilities in such zones, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/to be taken to resolve the issue of water scarcity?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *368 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2016 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "CRITICAL ZONES OF WATER SCARCITY" ASKED BY SHRI RAJKUMAR SAINI, HON'BLE M.P, LOK SABHA:

(a) Yes Madam. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Ground Water Organizations jointly assess replenishable ground water resources of the Country periodically with Block/Taluka/Firka as an assessment unit. As per the latest assessment (as on March 2011), out of 6607 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas/ Districts) in the Country, 1071 units falling in 16 States and 2 UTs have been categorized as 'Over-Exploited'. In addition, 217 assessment units are 'Critical' and 697 are 'Semi-Critical' on the basis of declining ground water level and stage of ground water development/utilization. State-wise details of over-exploited assessment units are given at Annexure.

(b) & (c) CGWB has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India", which envisages construction of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

Special focus is given under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water.

Department of Land Resources, Government of India is implementing 'Watershed Development Component' of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaai Yojana (PMKSY) since 2015-16. One of the major activity under the 'Watershed Development Component', inter-alia includes rainwater harvesting.

To increase availability of drinking water, the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10 % of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) fund is provided to the States.

Other steps/measures taken by the Central Government for the improving the situation include:

i. Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-

exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.

ii. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. As on March 2016, mapping of 2.28 lakh sq.km area has been achieved.

iii. The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 State have adopted and enacted suitable legislations in line of Model Bill.

iv. CGWB has undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation", in priority areas.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *368 for 11.08.2016 regarding "Critical Zones of Water Scarcity"

OVER-EXPLOITED BLOCKS/ MANDALS/ TALUKAS IN INDIA

(As on March, 2011)

Sl. No. States / Union Territories Total No. of Assessed Units Over-Exploited
Nos. %

States

1 Andhra Pradesh	662	41	6
2 Arunachal Pradesh	11	0	0
3 Assam	27	0	0
4 Bihar	533	0	0
5 Chhattisgarh	146	1	1
6 Delhi	27	18	67
7 Goa	20	0	0
8 Gujarat	223	24	11
9 Haryana	116	71	61
10 Himachal Pradesh	8	1	13
11 Jammu & Kashmir	14	0	0
12 Jharkhand	210	6	3
13 Karnataka	270	63	23
14 Kerala	152	1	1
15 Madhya Pradesh	313	24	8
16 Maharashtra	353	10	3
17 Manipur	8	0	0
18 Meghalaya	7	0	0
19 Mizoram	22	0	0
20 Nagaland	8	0	0
21 Odisha	314	0	0
22 Punjab	138	110	80
23 Rajasthan	243	172	71
24 Sikkim	4	0	0
25 Tamil Nadu	1129	374	33
26 Telangana	448	42	9
27 Tripura	39	0	0
28 Uttar Pradesh	820	111	14
29 Uttarakhand	18	0	0
30 West Bengal	271	0	0
Total (States)	6554	1069	16

Union Territories

1 Andaman & Nicobar	36	0	0
2 Chandigarh	1	0	0
3 Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0
4 Daman & Diu	2	1	50
5 Lakshadweep	9	0	0
6 Pondicherry	4	1	25
Total (UTs)	53	2	4
Grand Total	6607	1071	16