

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *87
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017

UNIFORM POLICY ON GROUND WATER USE

*87. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL
DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE

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

- (a) the details of current guidelines for extraction of ground water;
- (b) whether the Union Government is considering to frame guidelines for uniform policy on ground water use and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make any stipulation for the existing and new industries, infrastructure and mining projects to obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from district and State level authorities for drawing ground water under the new guidelines and if so, the facts in this regard;
- (d) whether farmers need to be exempted from obtaining NOCs; and
- (e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon ?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS AND SHIPPING

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *87 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2017 IN THE LOK SABHA REGARDING “UNIFORM POLICY ON GROUND WATER USE” ASKED BY SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL AND DR. PRITAM GOPINATH MUNDE, HON’BLE M.Ps :

(a) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Section 3(3) of ‘The Environment (Protection) Act, (1986)’ regulates extraction of ground water through guidelines which are updated regularly. Permission to extract ground water through any energized means is not accorded for any purpose other than drinking water in 162 notified areas. Industries/ infrastructure/ mining projects withdrawing ground water are required to seek ‘No Objection Certificate (NOC)’ for ground water withdrawal from the Authority. NOCs are issued by the Authority with mandatory conditions of construction of observation wells (piezometers), installation of Digital Water Level Recorders for ground water level monitoring and mandatory ground water recharge as specified in the guidelines for each category of area. The current guidelines are applicable in States/ UTs which are not regulating ground water development. The names of such States/UTs are given at **Annexure**.

(b) Yes, Madam. CGWA has proposed to revise the guidelines which, inter-alia, include pan India coverage, decentralization of NOC issuing authority, exemption to users drawing ground water through non-energized means and pump upto 2 HP from a single tube well for drinking & domestic purpose and introduction of water conservation fee to be used by States for effective ground water management. The guidelines have been circulated to all States/UTs and uploaded on the website of this Ministry, CGWB and CGWA for comments from all stakeholders.

(c) The proposed guidelines include decentralization of NOC issuing authority. The details of authorities from whom the industries, infrastructure and mining projects will have to obtain NOC are given below:

Quantum of ground water abstraction		Authorized Officer/ Organization
Safe and Semi-Critical Assessment units	Critical and Over-exploited including	
Up to 50 m ³ / day except those proposing to tap saline aquifers	Up to 20 m ³ / day except those proposing to tap saline aquifers	District Magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner
>50 - 500 m ³ / day Upto 500 m ³ / day for those tapping saline aquifers	>20–200 m ³ / day Upto 200 m ³ / day for those tapping saline aquifers	State Ground Water Authority/ State Nodal Agency
>500 m ³ / day	>200 m ³ / day	Central Ground Water Authority
All cases pertaining to mining and infrastructure dewatering		Central Ground Water Authority

(d) Yes, Madam. It is proposed to exempt farmers from obtaining NOC for agriculture purposes.

(e) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and recharge are primarily States' responsibility. The following measures are proposed to be taken by the State Departments (Agriculture/ Irrigation / Water Resources) to ensure sustainability of ground water sources in case of medium and large farmers concerned :

- Minimize conveyance losses by adopting surface / underground pipeline system.
- Promote and incentivize drip / sprinkler and other water saving irrigation methods / practices / techniques.
- Promote and incentivize crop diversification to less water intensive / consuming crops.
- Promote conjunctive use of surface and ground water in command areas.
- Promote use /reuse of treated /recycled water.
- Arrangement for dedicated electricity feeder for agricultural pump sets.

Besides, other steps taken by the Central Government to promote rain water harvesting are as follows:

- The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.
- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79,178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water.
- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water.
- CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rainwater harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rainwater harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

- This 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 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
- The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled "Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Gandhi Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.
- Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc.
- 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) funds are provided to the States.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Q.No. *87 for reply on 21.12.2017 regarding “Uniform Policy on Ground Water Use”

S.No.	State/UT
1.	Arunachal Pradesh
2.	Assam
3.	Bihar
4.	Chhattisgarh
5.	Gujarat
6.	Haryana
7.	Jharkhand
8.	Madhya Pradesh
9.	Maharashtra
10.	Manipur
11.	Meghalaya
12.	Mizoram
13.	Nagaland
14.	Odisha
15.	Punjab
16.	Rajasthan
17.	Tripura
18.	Uttar Pradesh
19.	Uttarakhand
20.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
21.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli
22.	Daman & Diu
23.	Sikkim