

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3765
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2019

Regulation of Ground Water Usage

3765. SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to bring in guidelines for regulating usage of ground water and to increase rain water harvesting system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government has also invited suggestions of the State Governments in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the actions taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) to (c)The issue of regulating usage of ground water and to increase rain water harvesting system is related to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR). As per the information furnished by them in this respect, water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including regulating ground water usage and rain water harvesting for artificial recharge to ground water in the country is primarily responsibility of the States.However, steps taken by the Central Government including regulation of ground water usage and rain water harvesting are as under:

- 1) The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by MoWR, 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.
- 2) MoWR, RD & GRhas 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.

- 3) 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 grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to various users through guidelines which are modified from time to time.
- 4) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water – 2013” which provides information about area-specific artificial recharge techniques to augment ground water resources based on the availability of source water and capability of subsurface formations to accommodate it. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.11 crore artificial recharge/Rainwater harvesting structures in urban and rural areas. The Master Plan is available in public domain and has also been circulated to the State Governments for implementation.
- 5) CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme from the XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. Aquifer Mapping is aimed at delineating aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans.
- 6) Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million hectare under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)*, primarily for development of rainfed portion of net cultivated area and cultivable wastelands. 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, pasture development etc.
- 7) 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 titled “Mission Water Conservation” for Natural Resources Management (NRM) to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), PMKSY, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD & WM) Programme, given their common objectives. Common works undertaken under these programmes / schemes include water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, ground water recharge, flood protection, land development, Command area development and watershed management.