

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3009**  
ANSWERED ON 11.07.2019

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT**

3009. DR. SUKANTA MAJUMDAR  
SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the invisible and capricious nature of ground water has resulted in so much exploitation and overuse that it has led to visible and consistent water crisis and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the surveys by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Indian and US space agencies ISRO and NASA, paint a frightening picture and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the salient features of Atal Bhujal Yojana for sustainable management of ground water with community participation;
- (d) whether geographical priority areas have been identified under the yojana and if so, the details of the identified overexploited and water stressed areas for the implementation of the yojana; and
- (e) the details of water budgeting, preparation and implementation of water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management in West Bengal?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining because of continuous withdrawal due to reasons such as increased demand of fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization & urbanization etc.

The Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resource of the country is being estimated jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments at periodical intervals. As per the 2017 assessment, out of the total 6881 assessment units (Block/ Taluks/ Mandals/ watersheds/ Firkas) in the Country, 1186 units in 17 States/UTs have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where current annual ground water extraction is more than annual extractable ground water resources.

In order to assess the declining/rising trend in water level on a long-term basis, pre-monsoon water level data 2019 has been compared with the decadal average (2009-2018) water level. Analysis of data indicates decline in ground water level in about 61% of the wells and rise in 38% wells being monitored.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has written a letter to all Sarpanchs on 08.06.2019 regarding the importance of water conservation and harvesting and exhorted them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.

Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks.

(c) to (e) The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 Crore scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank. The identified over-exploited (OE) and water stressed areas for the implementation of the scheme fall in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

ABHY envisages active participation of the communities in various activities such as formation of 'Water User Associations', monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, preparation & implementation of Gram-Panchayat-wise water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management. State-wise details are given in **Annexure**.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. The important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are at the following URL:

[http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps\\_to\\_control\\_water\\_depletion\\_Jun2019.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf)

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**ANNEXURE**

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) to (e) of Unstarred Q.No. 3009 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 11.07.2019 regarding “Ground Water Management”**

**State-wise details of Atal Bhujal Yojana**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Blocks</b>	<b>GPs</b>	<b>Area (in Sq. kms)</b>
1	Haryana	13	36	1,895	12,650
2	Gujarat	6	24	1,816	18,122
3	Karnataka	14	41	1,199	39,703
4	Maharashtra	13	35	1,339	13,209
5	Rajasthan	17	22	876	53,386
6	Uttar Pradesh	10	26	550	13,134
7	Madhya Pradesh	5	9	678	8,319
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>8,353</b>	<b>158,523</b>

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