

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1073
ANSWERED ON 27.06.2019

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER IN PUNJAB

1073. SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether groundwater in Punjab is depleting at an alarming pace and leading to a crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce extraction of groundwater in Punjab;
- (d) whether these steps have brought positive results and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess social, economic and cultural implications of water crisis and if so, the detail thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Dynamic ground water resources of the country is being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Governments. As per the 2013 assessment, out of the total 138 assessment units (Blocks) in Punjab, 105 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', where ground water extraction is more than net ground water availability and there is significant long-term decline in water levels. 4 units have been categorized as 'Critical', 3 units as 'Semi-Critical' and 26 units as 'Safe'.

(c) Water being a State subject, efforts to conserve and manage ground water is primarily States' responsibility. However, other steps taken by the Central Government to control ground water depletion are at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

(d) The comparison of Ground Water Resources Assessment 2011 and 2013, reveals that 11 Assessment Units have improved in the State of Punjab. Details of improved assessment units (Blocks) in the State of Punjab is given in **Annexure**. The implementation of policies and schemes mentioned in part 'c' also aided in the improvement of situation.

(e) Composite Water Management Index- 2018 has been published by NITI Aayog which may be accessed at https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/2018-05-18-Water-Index-Report_vS8-compressed.pdf.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Unstarred Question No. 1073 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 27.06.2019 regarding “DEPLETING GROUNDWATER IN PUNJAB”

Improved Assessment units (Blocks) in the State of Punjab

S.No	District	Name of the Assessment Unit (Blocks)	Category in 2011	Category in 2013
1	Amritsar	Majitha	Over Exploited	Critical
2	Bathinda	Nathana	Critical	Safe
3	Bathinda	Rampura	Critical	Safe
4	Ferozepur	Guru Har Sahai	Over Exploited	Critical
5	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	Critical	Semi Critical
6	Hoshiarpur	Hazipur	Over Exploited	Safe
7	Hoshiarpur	Talwara	Semi Critical	Safe
8	Mansa	Jhunir	Over Exploited	Critical
9	Nawan Shahr	Nawan Shahr	Over Exploited	Critical
10	Pathankot	Narot Jaimal Singh	Semi Critical	Safe
11	Ropar	Chamkaur Sahib	Over Exploited	Safe
