

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1361

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

WATER LEVEL IN GANGA

1361 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report by the World Meteorological Organisation stating that the volume of water available in the Ganga and the groundwater in the river basins have both seen a significant fall between 2002 and 2021; and
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and measures being taken to improve the present situation in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a): Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is periodically assessing the Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country as per the assessment unit i.e., blocks/taluka/mandal/tehsils/firka etc. CGWB has not carried out dynamic ground water resource assessment Basin-wise.

The Resource assessment for 268 districts which fall fully/partially in Ganga river basin was carried out during 2004 and recently in 2022 has been taken into consideration for comparison of volume of ground water available in Ganga Basin.

The Comparison of **Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources for 2004 and 2022 assessment years** of Ganga basin (based on cumulative resources of districts falling partially or completely in Ganga basin) are given below:

	Total Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources In Million Cubic Meter (MCM)	Total Annual Ground Water Extraction In Million Cubic Meter (MCM)
Ground Water Resource Assessment-2004 (GWRA-2004)	142790	87403
Ground Water Resource Assessment-2022 (GWRA-2022)	161462	107273
Change in Ground Water Resources (GWRA 2022- GWRA 2004)	18672 (Increase)	19870 (Increase)

The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of Ganga Basin shows marginal increase in Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources in 2022 as compared to 2004.

As informed by Central Water Commission (CWC), specific information is not available in this regard. However, the average annual water resources availability in Ganga Basin is assessed as 509.52 BCM and given in the CWC report entitled "Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs".

(b): The Initiatives/measures taken by Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation is given in **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1361 ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 19.12.2022 REGARDING “WATER LEVEL IN GANGA”.

Steps taken by the Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation.

1. Creation of a new Ministry of Jal Shakti for dealing with all matters relating to water at one place in an integrated manner.
2. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the campaign “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” campaign, with the theme, “Catch the Rain, Where it falls, When it falls” on 22- March-2021 to promote rain water harvesting. The campaign saw over 47 lakh rain water harvesting structures/ created or maintained using Central and state funds. This campaign was continued in 2022 also.
3. Hon'ble PM wrote a letter on 24-3-2021 to all Sarpanchs in the country regarding the importance of water conservation and harvesting and exhorting them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.
4. The National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates rain water harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. It also, inter-alia, advocates conservation of river, river bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation. Further, encroachment and diversion of water bodies and drainage channels must not be allowed and wherever, it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.
5. In compliance to the decision taken by the Committee of Secretaries, an ‘Inter-Ministerial Committee’ under the Chairmanship of Secretary(WR, RD & GR) has been constituted to take forward the subject of ‘Push on Water Conservation Related Activities for Optimum Utilization of Monsoon Rainfall’.
6. DoWR, RD &GR 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.
7. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions under Section 5 of “The Environment Protection Act, 1986” for mandatory Rain Water Harvesting / Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting for all target areas in the Country including UTs. While granting ‘No Objection Certificate (NOC)’ for drawing ground water, CGWA insists for mandatory rain water harvesting as per the guidelines issued.
8. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under DoWR, RD & GR has also prepared a conceptual document entitled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India” during the year 2013, which 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, in an area of 9,41,541 sq.km by harnessing surplus monsoon runoff to augment ground water resources.
9. Besides, CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme 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 management plans are shared with the respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures.
10. Department of Water Resource, RD&GR has instituted National Water Awards to incentivise good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.

11. Mass awareness programs (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions and Painting Competitions etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of DoWR, RD & GR in various parts of the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

12. The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Department 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 Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY), erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) now PMKSY-Watershed Development Component 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

13. 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 MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY) for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and cultivable 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.

14. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released Model Building Bye-laws, 2016 which recommends Rainwater Harvesting for all types of Building with plot size 100 sq.m or more. Barring the States/UT of Manipur, Sikkim Mizoram and Lakshadweep, all the States have incorporated the provisions in their respective building bye laws. The plans submitted to the local bodies shall indicate the system of storm water drainage along with points of collection of rain water in surface reservoirs or in recharge wells. Further, all building having a minimum discharge of 10,000 litre and above per day shall incorporate waste water recycling system. The recycled water should be used for horticultural purposes.

15. Government of India has approved Atal BhujalYojana (Atal Jal), a Rs. 6000 Crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation in water stressed blocks of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

16. Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) 2016 circulated by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States / UTs. So far 32 States / UTs have adopted the provisions of rainwater harvesting of MBBL-2016.

17. Atal BhujalYojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 crore scheme with World Bank funding, for sustainable management of ground water with community participation is being taken up in the identified over-exploited and water stressed areas fall in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. This scheme is expected to contribute significantly towards water and food security of the participating States.
