

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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 408

ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

DEPLETING WATER TABLE IN KARNATAKA

408. SHRI IRANNA KADADI

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy/strategy has been formulated to resolve the problem of depleting water table in Karnataka and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any empirical research/study to assess the current volume of river water available in Karnataka and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government for ground water rejuvenation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being a State subject, water management including formulation of policy/strategy is States' responsibility. However, a number of steps have been taken by the Central Government for sustainable management of groundwater in the country, including Karnataka. The details in this regard can be accessed through web-link: https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf. Some of them are listed as below.

(i) The Ministry has finalized the National Water Policy 2012, whose provisions can be appropriately utilized while framing the water legislations by the States/UTs. The water policy 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, water demand management, increasing water use efficiency, water pricing including incentivisation of recycle & reuse of water etc.

(ii) Department has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 19 States/UTs, including Karnataka, have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

(iii) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has formulated Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 for the States/UTs, wherein adequate focus has been given on requirement of rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures. As per MBBL, all buildings having a plot size of 100 sq.m. or, more

shall mandatorily include the complete proposal of rainwater harvesting. 35 States/ UTs, including Karnataka, have adopted the features of the Bye Laws.

(iv) Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country, including Karnataka. JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts. In 2021, JSA was taken up in the entire country, both rural and urban areas. In 2022, JSA has been launched by Hon'ble President on 29.03.2022. The primary aim of JSA is to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc.

(v) 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 by industries, mining projects, infrastructure projects etc in the country. The latest guideline in this regard with pan-India applicability was notified by the Ministry on 24 September 2020. CGWA and States (including Karnataka) issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction of groundwater to various industries/project proponents as per their jurisdiction and as per the extant guidelines.

(b) Water being a State subject, estimation of quantum of river water available in Karnataka is the responsibility of the State Government, however, details of average annual water availability for the country, basin-wise as per the Central Water Commission report entitled 'Reassessment of Water availability in India using Space Inputs' is given at **Annexure**.

(c) Important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management/rejuvenation of groundwater in the country, including Karnataka, are given in reply to part (a) above. However, some more notable initiatives in this direction is given below.

(i) Hon'ble Prime Minister has launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on 24th April 2022. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country, including Karnataka, as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

(ii) The Central Government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, in collaboration with States, in certain water stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The primary aim of the scheme is demand side management through scientific means involving the local communities at village levels leading to sustainable groundwater management in the targeted areas. An area of 39,703 Sq. Km in 1199 water stressed Gram Panchayats covering 41 Taluks of 14 districts of Karnataka are covered under the scheme at a cost of around Rs 1200 Crores.

(iii) CGWB is implementing National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM) in the country, including Karnataka, for its sustainable management. Out of the total mappable area of nearly 25 Lakh Sq Km, nearly 24.50 Lakh Sq Km of the area (as on 30th December 2022) in the country has been covered; balance area has been targeted to be covered by March 2023. The NAQUIM study report along-with management plans are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

(iv) Central Government generally supports construction of water conservation & rain water harvesting structures through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC) and Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme & Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Schemes under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Har Khet Ko Pani (PMKSY-HKKP).

Further, Water is a State subject and several States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting such as ‘Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan’ in Rajasthan, ‘Jalyukt Shibir’ in Maharashtra, ‘Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan’ in Gujarat, ‘Mission Kakatiya’ in Telangana, 'Neeru Chettu' in Andhra Pradesh, 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' in Bihar, ‘Jal Hi Jeevan’ in Haryana, 'Pani Bachao Paise Kamao' scheme in Punjab and 'Kudimaramath' scheme in Tamil Nadu.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 408 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 06.02.2023 REGARDING “DEPLETING WATER TABLE IN KARNATAKA”.

Basin-wise Details of Average Annual Water Availability in India.

Sl. No.	River Basin	Catchment Area (sq.km)	Average Water Resources Potential Billion Cubic Metre (BCM)
1.	Indus	317708	45.53
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna		
	(a) Ganga	838803	509.52
	(b) Brahmaputra	193252	527.28
	(c) Barak & others	86335	86.67
3.	Godavari	312150	117.74
4.	Krishna	259439	89.04
5.	Cauvery	85167	27.67
6.	Subarnarekha	26804	15.05
7.	Brahmani-Baitarani	53902	35.65
8.	Mahanadi	144905	73.00
9.	Pennar	54905	11.02
10.	Mahi	39566	14.96
11.	Sabarmati	31901	12.96
12.	Narmada	96659.79	58.21
13.	Tapi	65805.80	26.24
14.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	58360	118.35
15.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	54231	119.06
16.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	82073	26.41
17.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar & Kanyakumari	101657	26.74
18.	West Flowing rivers of Kutch and Surashtra including Luni	192112	26.93
19.	Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	144835.90	Negligible
20.	Minor Rivers draining into Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh	31382	31.17
	Total	32,71,953	1999.20

Source: Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, June 2019.
