

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 97

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

MODEL BILL FOR GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT

97. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme 'Ground Water Management & Regulation' in the country for delineation of aquifer disposition and their characterization and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable groundwater legislation which includes provision of rain water harvesting and if so, the details thereof along with the progress made thereunder; and
- (c) the other important steps being taken by Government to improve and manage ground water conditions in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), an organization under this Ministry is implementing the Central Sector Scheme 'Ground Water Management & Regulation (GWM&R)' in the country under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) component of which delineation of aquifer disposition & their characterization for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans is being taken up. Further, under the GWM&R scheme Ground Water (GW) level and quality Monitoring, GW Resource Assessment etc. are also being conducted. The information generated are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions on their part.

b) Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill. The status of enactment of Model bill by States are given in **Annexure-I**.

c) Water being a state subject, development and management of ground water resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government facilitates the efforts of the State Governments through financial and technical assistance. The important measures being taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management including underground water resources recovery in the country can be seen at <https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

.some of them are listed as under

- (i) Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts which continued during the years 2021 2022, also (across entire country both rural and urban areas) with the primary aim to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. JSA for the year 2023 have been launched by Hon'ble President of India on 04 March 2023 with the theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water".
- (ii) 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 as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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 guideline in this regard with pan-India applicability was notified by the Ministry on 24 September 2020 with subsequent amendment on 29 March 2023. CGWA and States issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction of groundwater to various industries/project proponents as per their jurisdiction and as per the extant guidelines.
- (v) CGWB is implementing National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM) in the country and an area of 25.15 lakh sq km(the available mappable area) has been covered under the NAQUIM studies. The NAQUIM study report along-with management plans are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.
- (vi) Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by the CGWB in collaboration with States/UTs providing a broad outline of the project and expected investments. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of water. The Master plan has been shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 97 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 04.12.2023 REGARDING “MODEL BILL FOR GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT”.

STATUS OF ENACTMENT OF MODEL BILL BY STATES

A. States/ UTs where Model Bill Enacted and Implemented (15 States and 6 Uts)

SL. NO.	STATES
1	Andhra Pradesh
2	Assam
3	Bihar
4	Goa
5	Haryana
6	Himachal Pradesh
7	Karnataka
8	Kerala
9	Maharashtra
10	Nagaland
11	Odisha
12	Punjab
13	Telangana
14	Uttar Pradesh
15	West Bengal
	<i>Union Territories</i>
1	Chandigarh (Regulations & Byelaws)
2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu
3	Jammu and Kashmir
4	Ladakh
5	Lakshadweep
6	Pondicherry
