

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 707

ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

WWF's REPORT ON WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY

†707. SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of a report of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), according to which 30 cities of the country will face serious water crisis by 2050, if so, the details of those cities;
- (b) whether there is any concrete strategy being made by Government regarding this report, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government is aware of lack of water in Bangaluru resulting in closing down of many educational institutions and there is a risk of something like this happening in other cities of the country, if so, Government's action plan thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (c) The Government is aware about a media report wherein World-Wide Fund for Nature has come out with a report mentioning that thirty Indian cities are going to face grave water crises by 2050. The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors; however, water availability per person is dependent on population of a country.

Based on the study titled "Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019" conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2031 and 2051 has been assessed as 1,367 cubic meter and 1,228 cubic meters respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1,700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1,000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

'Water' being a state subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25th June, 2015 in select 500 cities and towns across the country. The water supply component includes new, augmentation and rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water

bodies for drinking water supply and special water supply arrangement for difficult areas, hills and coastal cities, including those having water quality problem.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan-I (JSA-I) was conducted in 2019 in 256 water stressed districts of the country and was expanded as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) in 2021 with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country. “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” JSA: CTR) -2024 campaign, the fifth in the series of JSAs, was launched on March 9, 2024. This campaign covers all districts in the country, both rural and urban, under the theme “Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti” emphasizing the crucial role of women in water conservation. The focused interventions of the campaign include (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies (iii) preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (iv) intensive afforestation and (v) awareness generation.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the country including urban areas on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. The water level data indicates that about 78% of the wells across the country record the water level data within the range.

Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-Har Ghar Jal to make provision of potable tap water supply ensuring prescribed quality to every rural household of the country at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day by 2024.

Steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for Water conservation, Control and regulation of ground water and to promote rainwater harvesting / artificial recharge/ water use efficiency etc. can be seen at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>
