

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3534
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2017

LAW ON USE OF FRESH WATER

3534. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning for a model law on use of fresh water in the country to check water scarcity in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made in this regard, so far; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government towards conservation of rainwater especially within the realm of private property such as houses, shops etc.?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) A Committee constituted by this Ministry on 28.12.2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah has suggested draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 which inter-alia provides for an overarching national legal framework with principles for protection, conservation, regulation and management of water as a vital and stressed natural resource. The salient features of the draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 are **annexed**.

(c) Water being a State Subject, State Governments undertake several measures for augmenting, conserving and utilizing water resources which inter-alia include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. This Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes and programmes viz. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water-bodies etc.

Contd. P2/-

Steps taken by this Ministry towards conservation of rainwater include –

- The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, 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 and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption of the policy.
- CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India” during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 22.83 lakh artificial recharge structures in rural areas and about 88.00 lakh rain water harvesting structures in Urban areas of the country. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
- Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
- CGWB is taking necessary steps for creating mass awareness on rainwater harvesting and water conservation through various activities such as Water Management Training Programmes, Workshops, National Painting Competition on Water Conservation, Mass Awareness Campaign on Water Conservation.
- A mobile app “**Jal Sanchayan**” which is a user-friendly Android Mobile Application (built in bilingual both Hindi & English) comprises all components of rainwater harvesting in single platform has been launched by this Ministry. It can be downloaded into any Android Mobile Phone from “**Google Play Store**”. Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all the States/UTs have been requested for wide publicity of Jal Sanchayan mobile app.

(Annexure referred to in reply to Parts (a) & (b) of the Unstarred Question No.3534 to be answered on 23.03.2017 in the Lok Sabha regarding “Law on Use of Fresh Water”)

SALIENT FEATURES OF DRAFT NATIONAL WATER FRAMEWORK BILL, 2016

The draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 seeks to provide an overarching national legal framework based on principles for protection, conservation, regulation and management of water as a vital and stressed natural resource, under which legislation and executive action on water at all levels of governance can take place.

2. The Bill proposes that every individual should have a right to sufficient quantity of safe water for life within easy reach based on the principles of integrated river basin management. The States shall hold water resources as a Common Heritage and Public Trust.

3. The draft Bill proposes that the appropriate government shall strive towards rejuvenating river systems with community participation, ensuring:

- (a) ‘Aviral Dhara’ – continuous flow in time and space including maintenance of connectivity of flow in each river system;
- (b) ‘Nirmal Dhara’ – unpolluted flow so that the quality of river waters is not adversely affected by human activities; and
- (c) ‘Swachh Kinara’ – clean and aesthetic river banks with ecological integrity.

4. It proposes that the appropriate government shall take all measures to protect the ecological integrity necessary to sustain eco-systems dependent on water and should adopt people-centered decentralized water management, for both surface and ground water, including local rainwater harvesting, watershed development and participatory irrigation management, shall be prioritized, while recognizing, encouraging and empowering local initiatives.

5. It proposes that the appropriate Government shall take into consideration the following:

- (a) Water Use and Land Use
- (b) Appropriate Treatment and Use of Wastewater
- (c) Standards for Water Quality and Water Footprints
- (d) Water Use Prioritization.

Provided that these uses of water are consistent with the objective of sustaining aquifers and eco-system indispensable to long term sustenance of the resource.

6. The draft Bill lays high priority to Integrated River Basin Development and Management, wherein a river basin, including associated aquifers, shall be considered as the basis hydrological unit for planning, development and management of water. Each State Government shall develop, manage and regulate basins of inter-State rivers through a River Basin Master Plan to be implemented by an appropriate institutional mechanism.

7. It proposes establishment of a River Basin Authority for each inter-State river basin for optimum and sustainable development of the inter-State rivers and river valleys, with active participation and cooperation by all basin States to ensure equitable, sustainable and efficient utilisation of water resources with emphasis on demand management through conjunctive and integrated use of resources. Each River Basin Authority shall prepare a Master Plan for the River Basin.

8. The Bill also proposes that the appropriate Government shall prepare and oversee the implementation of a Water Security Plan for (a) attainment of sufficient quantity of safe water for life and sustainable livelihoods by every person; and (b) ensuring water security even in times of emergencies like droughts and floods.
