

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3371
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2018

WATER CRISIS

†3371. SHRI LALLU SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of recent serious water crisis and resultant problems being faced by the people in Capetown of South Africa and United Arab Emirates;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate any national law to prevent misuse of water and to use it conservatively to avoid Capetown like serious water crisis in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Government is aware of the recent water crisis in Cape Town. However, the Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi, UAE has informed that though UAE is a water scarce country, it uses water desalination technology and is able to meet its needs.

(b) to (d) Water being a State subject, enactment of laws related to its use is primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments.

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has circulated Groundwater Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and judicious development. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation in the lines of Model Bill.

Further, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Section 3(3) of “The Environment (Protection) Act, (1986), for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country, has, so far, notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development & management.

A Committee constituted by this Ministry on 28.12.2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah suggested a draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016, which inter-alia contains provisions for an overarching national legal framework with principles for protection, conservation, regulation and management of water as a vital and stressed natural resource. The draft National Water Framework Bill, 2016 has been circulated to the States/UTs for comments.

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.
