

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2612
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018

GROUND WATER (SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT) BILL, 2017

2612. SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI

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

- (a) the current status of the Ground Water (Sustainable Management) Bill, 2017;
- (b) whether the Government plans to take any action based on the report submitted by NITI Aayog which has predicted that nearly half of India's population could end up with no drinking water by 2030 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Chennai could run out of ground water by 2020 and if so, the facts thereof; and
- (d) the plan of the Government to tackle the situation along with the further action plan to tackle the ground water crisis in two and three tier cities of the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The draft model Ground Water (Sustainable Management) Bill is under examination of this Ministry before circulation to States for adoption.

(b) to (d) NITI Aayog, in its report titled "Composite Water Management Index" (June 2018) has mentioned that 21 cities of India including New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020. This is based only on the estimates of annual groundwater replenishment and its extraction. It does not take into account the ground water availability in the deeper aquifers.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water is primarily States' responsibility. However, following steps have been taken by the Central Government for conservation and sustainability of ground water in the Country:

- (i). Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water – 2013" which provides information about area specific artificial recharge techniques to augment the ground water resources based on the availability of source water and capability of subsurface formations to accommodate it. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.11 crore artificial recharge structures in urban and rural areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 79178 crore. This comprises around 88 lakh recharge structures/ facilities utilizing rainwater directly from roof top and more than 23 lakh artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting structures for conserving surplus runoff to augment the groundwater resources. It is estimated that annually about 85,565 MCM of surplus run-off can be harnessed to augment the ground water. The Master Plan is available in public domain and has also been circulated to the State Governments for its implementation.
- (ii). 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.

- (iii).** CGWA has been constituted under “The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water.
- (iv).** CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rainwater harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rainwater harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
- (v).** This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
- (vi).** CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
- (vii).** Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 circulated by Ministry of Urban Development include the provision of Rainwater Harvesting. As per Model Building Bye Laws, water harvesting through storing of water runoff including rainwater in all new buildings on plots of 100 sq.m and above will be mandatory. Barring the States/UT of Manipur, Sikkim Mizoram and Lakshadweep, all the States have incorporated the provisions in their respective building bye laws. The plans submitted to the local bodies shall indicate the system of storm water drainage along with points of collection of rain water in surface reservoirs or in recharge wells. Further, all buildings having a minimum discharge of 10,000 litre and above per day shall incorporate waste water recycling system. The recycled water should be used for horticultural purposes.
- (viii).** Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc.
- (ix).** The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled “Mission Water Conservation” to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.
- (x)** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is carrying out training programs and IEC activities for capacity building and awareness creation among stakeholders on the importance of water conservation and rainwater harvesting in augmenting the ground water resources.