

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. ‡2716
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018

SURCHARGES ON WATER

‡2716. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI

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

- (a) the contingency measures taken by the Government for the optimum utilisation of available water for primary sectors like agriculture, rural, urban water supply and industry owing to concerns over low monsoon in the country;
- (b) whether the Government is likely to charge more from the bottled water beverage manufacturing companies for the use of ground water to subsidize water supply for the rural and urban poor and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to increase water surcharge for irrigation and urban water supply systems while endorsing heavy investment for conservation of water resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The water resources projects are owned, operated and maintained by the respective State Governments, and so, steps to ensure sustainability of water resources including any contingency measures for optimum utilization of available water for primary sectors like agriculture, rural and urban water supply and industry are undertaken by respective State Governments depending on their priority and resources. However, Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country on weekly basis and issues weekly bulletin on every Thursday. CWC issues advisories to the State Government authorities whenever there are indications of comparatively lower storages in the reservoirs to utilize the available water resources prudently and efficiently to tide over any possible water shortage.

Further, some of the measures taken by the Central Government for optimum utilization of available water for various purposes in the country are as under:

- The Government of India has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16 which aims to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water

conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, 99 on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) having potential of 76.03 lakh hectares were prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works. The Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) programme has been taken up with a view to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created, and improve agriculture production on a sustainable basis through Participatory Irrigation Management.

- The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development which envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of available water.
- Central Government has launched the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25 June 2015 in 500 Mission cities with major focus on water supply. Under AMRUT, the States/Union Territories (UTs) have been empowered to select, appraise, approve and implement individual projects. Central Government only approves State Annual Action Plans (SAAPs) and releases Central Assistance (CA) as per Mission guidelines. Under this Mission, all SAAPs for Rs. 77,640 crore have been approved for all States/UTs including Central Assistance of Rs. 39,011 crore.
- The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to States for providing safe drinking water to all the rural households in the country. A total of 85,888, 61042 and 53411 nos. of habitations have been covered during the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 respectively.

(b) Central Ground Water Authority, constituted under Section 3(3) of 'The Environment (Protection) Act, 1985', has framed draft guidelines proposing to levy a water conservation fee for issuance of 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' for ground water abstraction. The rates of water conservation fee have been proposed based on the quantum of ground water abstracted, category of ground water assessment unit and use of ground water. Higher rates have been proposed for bottled water and beverage manufacturing industries.

(c) & (d) Irrigation being a state subject, the irrigation projects are planned, executed and funded by State Government as per their priorities. The matter of irrigation water cess / tariff accordingly lies in the purview of State Government.
