

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3839
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2018

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL SOURCES OF WATER

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

- (a) whether natural sources of water are drying across various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan prepared by the Government for conservation of natural sources of water like lakes, ponds etc. which are getting dry continuously in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission under Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) carries out hydrological observation on all important/major rivers in the country and as per the record of annual average flow during the last twenty years in these rivers, no trend of drying of rivers is visible.

As per the Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment of the country (2013), jointly carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments, depletion of ground water due to over-exploitation of resources have been observed in certain parts of various States in the country. Out of the total 6584 numbers of assessment units in the Country, 1034 units (16%) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', where ground water extraction is more than net annual ground water availability and there is significant long-term decline in water levels.

(c) Water being a State subject, conservation and recharging of natural sources of water are undertaken by the respective State governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes.

The steps taken by the Central Government for conservation and recharge of natural sources of water are as follows:

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing the scheme National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments.

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- For more effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Central Government has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 on 26.09.2017 superseding the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.
- Central Government has launched scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). The RRR of water bodies Scheme has multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing the tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, improvement of catchment areas of tank commands, etc.
- Central Ground Water Authority (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.
- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India” during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge structures in urban and rural areas. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) 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.
- ‘Atal Bhujal Yojana’, envisaging sustainable management of ground water with emphasis on demand side management through community participation in identified over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in priority States of Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka has been proposed.
- MoWR, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.
