

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1601
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2022

Water Stress

1601. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the drinking water stress in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to rectify the drinking water stress and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extract more ground water for drinking purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to launch special programme for groundwater recharge and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to regulate the extraction of groundwater and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to launch programme for ensuring quality of open well water and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c) Drinking Water being a State subject, it is States, who plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance. As reported by States/ UTs, as on 05.12.2022, out of 16.97 lakh rural habitations in the country, 13.07 lakh [77%] have provision of potable drinking water with more than 40 litre per capita per day (lpcd), 3.64 lakh [21.5%] rural habitations with less than 40 lpcd with sources at a reasonable distance and 0.26 lakh [1.5%] rural habitations are reported to have water quality issues in drinking water sources.

Further, to enable every rural household to have provision of tap water supply by 2024, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) – Har Ghar Jal, since August 2019. At the time of announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission, 3.23 Crore (17%) households were reported to have tap water connections. So far, around 7.48 Crore (38%) rural households have been provided with tap water connections in last 3 years. Thus, as on

12.12.2022, out of 19.36 Crore rural households in the country, around 10.71 Crore (55%) households are reported to have tap water supply in their homes.

Under JJM, the water sources *inter alia* which include groundwater (open well, borewell, tube well, handpumps, etc.), ancient & traditional surface water (river, reservoir, lake, pond, springs, etc.) and rain water stored in small tanks are being used as sources for drinking water supply schemes. Details of individual projects/ schemes for rural water supply projects including water source for scheme are not maintained at the Government of India level.

(d) For supplementing the efforts of the States for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources, the Central Government has taken various steps for sustainable ground water management in the country. A few of these areas under:

- i.) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme under Ground Water Management and Regulation scheme with the objectives to delineate the aquifers, characterize them and prepare management plans. Out of the identified 25 lakh sq. Km area for coverage under NAQUIM studies, so far, an area of 24.4 lakh sq. km has already been covered. The entire 25 lakh sq. km is targeted to be covered by March 2023.
- ii.) The Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater -2020 has been prepared with respective State counterparts. The master plan includes artificial recharge in both rural and urban areas including water scarce cities.
- iii.) Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts in the country with the primary aim to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. Under JSA 2021, during the period from 22nd March 2021 to 28th March 2022, around 10.65 lakh rainwater conservation & harvesting structures were created and around 1.79 lakh traditional water bodies were renovated in the country.
- iv.) Central Government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, in collaboration with States, in certain water stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The primary aim of the scheme is demand side management through scientific means involving the local communities at village levels leading to sustainable groundwater management in the targeted areas.

Further details of steps taken for sustainable ground water management are available at:

http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf

(e) For the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the "Environment (Protection) Act, 1986". CGWA has advised States/ UTs to take measures to promote/ adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting. CGWA grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects in feasible areas in certain States/ UTs where regulation is not being done by the respective State/ UTs. The latest guidelines for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India applicability was notified by the Ministry on 24 September 2020.

(f) For facilitating ground water quality improvement/ remediation of contamination in the country, the following steps have been taken by the Central Government:

- i.) Data on ground water quality available with Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) are being shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures.
- ii.) CGWB constructs wells for Exploration of Ground Water. Successful contamination-free wells are handed over to the State Governments for gainful utilization.
- iii.) Under the National Aquifer Mapping Programme (NAQUIM) of CGWB, special attention is being given to the aspect of ground water quality including contamination by toxic substances such as Arsenic in ground water. Further, under NAQUIM, CGWB constructs arsenic safe exploratory wells arsenic affected parts of the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The arsenic safe deeper aquifer zones have been identified and wells have been constructed tapping the arsenic safe deeper aquifers using innovative cement sealing technique.
- iv.) Awareness generation programs/ workshop on various aspects of ground water including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water are conducted by CGWB periodically.
- v.) Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has issued guidelines for control and regulation of groundwater extraction with pan-India on 24th September 2020 which *inter alia* includes clauses on 'Measures to be adopted to ensure prevention from pollution in the plant premises of polluting industries/Projects'.
