

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *210

ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023

EFFICIENCY OF GROUNDWATER USE UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

*210 SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any specific measures are being taken under Atal Bhujal Yojana to improve the efficiency of groundwater use in agriculture in Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken to improve and/or report prepared for examining the deteriorated ground water quality due to contamination of Ghaggar river in the Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any special financial help is also provided to Gram Panchayats of Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency under the above mentioned scheme through the State Governments; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of funds released thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *210 TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2023 REGARDING “EFFICIENCY OF GROUNDWATER USE UNDER ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA”.

(a) Atal Bhujal Yojana is being taken up in selected Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Rania and Ellanabad Blocks of Sirsa district and Tohana Block of Fatehabad district, which fall in Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency.

The scheme focuses on community led sustainable management of ground water. Through sustained information, education, communication (IEC) and awareness activities, it targets the behaviour of the community to orient it towards sustainable management of ground water, including improving water use efficiency through various activities. Measures taken to increase efficiency of groundwater use in agriculture include micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines etc.

In the above mentioned three Blocks, 974.10 hectares of land has been brought under micro irrigation; 2,385.94 ha agricultural farm land has been brought under low water consuming crops; 463.87 ha area has been brought under Direct Seeding of Rice and 945 ha. of land is covered through an under ground pipeline system in the selected GPs.

(b) & (c) No such report highlighting the deterioration of ground water quality due to contamination of Ghaggar river is available. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) generates ground water quality data of the country, including Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency, on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies. These studies indicate the occurrence of contaminants such as fluoride, arsenic, nitrate and uranium beyond permissible limits (as per BIS) for human consumption in isolated pockets in Sirsa Parliamentary Constituency.

Water being a State subject, initiatives for water management, including its quality, are primarily the responsibility of the States. However, various steps have been taken by the Central Government for facilitating ground water quality improvement/ remediation of contamination in the country, including Haryana, as given below:

- i. Data on ground water quality available with CGWB are made available in public domain through reports as well as through the web site (<http://www.cgwb.gov.in>) for use by various stakeholders. The data is also 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 given to the aspect of ground water quality, including contamination by toxic substances such as arsenic in ground water.

- iv. Awareness generation programs/workshops on various aspects of ground water, including preventing ground water pollution and safe use of contaminated water, are conducted by CGWB periodically.

(d) & (e) Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, funds are released to the States as grant-in-aid under two components – (i) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building (IS&CB) under which various equipment such as Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs), water level sounders, rain gauges, water flow meters, etc. are provided to each GP to increase the monitoring of ground water data. In addition, technical help is provided to GPs with an aim to make the communities aware about ground water data and prepare water budget and water security plans for the GP. (ii) Under the incentive component, States are also incentivized monetarily which can be utilized in any activity leading to sustainable ground water management in the GPs. Funds are not released directly to GPs. However, State of Haryana has been released Rs. 241.54 crore under the scheme as on 12.07.2023 which includes Rs. 61.25 crore under the IS&CB component and Rs. 180.29 crore under the incentive component.
