

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1208

ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

GROUND WATER EXTRACTION

†1208. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ground water extraction has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering to further bring down the extraction of ground water;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. The comparison between latest assessment (2022) with the 2017 assessment indicates that the average 'Stage of Ground Water Extraction(i.e. gross groundwater extraction for all uses on an average to available groundwater resource)' for the country as a whole improved to 60.08% (2022 assessment) as compared to 63.33% (2017 assessment).

Further annual groundwater extraction for various uses in the country as per 2022 and 2017 assessments are 239.16 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 248.69 BCM indicating a lesser overall groundwater extraction of around 9.53 BCM.

(b) Yes sir. Government is promoting the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water for sustainable management of the water resources in the country specially targeting the water stressed areas by promoting community based interventions at village level using scientific/innovative means like identifying and characterising the aquifers for its proper management at finer scale, preparation/implementation of water security plans at village levels, use of micro-irrigation practices like sprinkler/drip irrigation systems, real time groundwater level monitoring and its dissemination to stakeholders etc.

(c) Water being a State subject, the efforts to reduce extraction of groundwater including effectively harvest the rainwater/recharge of groundwater for its sustainable management falls in the mandate of

State Government, however, Central Government has taken a number of steps in this direction which can be seen in the web-link :

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

Some of the important steps for reducing groundwater extraction in the country are as under:

- i. Agriculture being one of the major extractors of groundwater in the country, Central Government is promoting participatory groundwater management in the country with community participation at village level for conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater based on scientific means. Further, crop diversification, crop rotation, use of micro irrigation techniques like drip/sprinkler irrigation systems, increasing water use efficiency by use of improved techniques, availability of surface water through canal-based system, energy efficient electric tariff policy etc are being vigorously promoted in agriculture sector.
- ii. Central Government is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana involving the local communities at village levels 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. Under Atal Bhujal Yojana, the focus is on demand side management of the ground water and accordingly water saving interventions such as use of micro irrigation (drip/sprinkler system), shifting of cropping patten from high water intensive crops to low water intensive crops, use of pipe in irrigation to reduce losses, mulching etc. are being encouraged and incentivised.
- iii. Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) Scheme which is operational from 2015-16 in the country. PDMC focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through Micro Irrigation mainly (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System).
- iv. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under section 3(3) of the "Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water by industries, mining projects, infrastructure projects etc in the country. The regulation guideline in this regard with pan-India applicability was notified by the Department of Water Resources, RD & GR on 24 September 2020 with subsequent amendment on 29 March 2023. CGWA and States issue No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction of groundwater to various industries/project proponents as per their jurisdiction and as per the extant guidelines.

(d) Question does not arise in view of the reply given at part (c).
