

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *204
ANSWERED ON 05.03.2020

WATER STRESSED DISTRICTS

*204. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any data about the number of water stressed districts in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take comprehensive measures to remove water shortage in the water stressed districts;
- (c) if so, the number of water stressed districts shortlisted for this purpose along with the criteria adopted for shortlisting the districts;
- (d) whether the Government has set any time frame for this purpose and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the funds allocated/utilised for various water management programmes during each of the last three years; and
- (f) the other steps taken by the Government to check depleting ground water table in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTs (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *204 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.03.2020 REGARDING “WATER STRESSED DISTRICTS” ASKED BY DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S. AND DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE, M.P.

(a) & (c) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per the 2017 assessment, out of the total 6881 assessment units (Block/ Taluks/ Mandals/ Watersheds/ Firkas) in the country, 1186 units have been categorized as ‘Over-exploited’ where the Annual Ground Water Extraction is more than Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource. State-wise details in this regard are given in **Annexure I**.

Further, under Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), 1592 water stressed blocks in 256 districts identified which included 1186 Over-exploited blocks, 312 Critical blocks and 94 blocks with low groundwater.

(b) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States’ responsibility. Further, to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

In addition, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Of these, mention can be made of ‘Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan’ in Rajasthan, ‘Jalyukt Shibir’ in Maharashtra, ‘Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan’ in Gujarat, ‘Mission Kakatiya’ in Telangana, Neeru Chettu’ in Andhra Pradesh, Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar, ‘Jal Hi Jeevan’ in Haryana among others.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions. Further, to promote water conservation and water resource management, five target interventions viz. water conservation & rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional & other water-bodies/tanks, reuse and recharge of bore-wells, watershed development and intensive afforestation etc implemented.

In addition, Government of India has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs. 6000 Crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. Atal Jal is being implemented in 78 water stressed districts of Seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Various States/UTs are implementing their schemes/programmes pertaining to water conservation/water harvesting as per their approved scheme/program guidelines and funds availability. Further, Government of India supplements the efforts of States/UTs by way of technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various Central Government schemes and programmes.

The Atal Jal shall be implemented during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25.

(e) Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC).

The expenditure made on water related works taken up under MGNREGA during last three years and current year as uploaded by the States in the MIS after following due procedures of the Programme is as under:

Years	Rs in Cr
2016-17	23278.9
2017-18	19839.05
2018-19	19673.65
2019-20 (till 02.03.2020)	16894.96

Funds released as Central share to States under PMKSY-WDC are as under:

Years	Rs in Cr
2016-17	1494.92
2017-18	1699.40
2018-19	1791.49
2019-20 (till 28.02.2020)	1302.98

(f) 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 development and management in the Country. CGWA is regulating ground water withdrawal by industries / infrastructure/ mining projects in the country including in NCR region for which guidelines/ criteria have been framed, which are modified from time to time. The current guidelines, effective from 15.11.2015 are available on the website <http://cgwa-noc.gov.in>.

Further, CGWA had notified fresh guidelines for development and management of ground water resources in the country vide Gazette Notification SO 6140 (E) dated 12.12.2018. However, further fresh guidelines are being finalized.

As per information received from Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the Model Building Bye Laws, 2016, has been issued for guidance of the States/UTs which has a chapter on ‘Rainwater Harvesting’. The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all the buildings. 33 States / UTs have

adopted the rainwater harvesting provisions. The implementation of the rainwater harvesting policy comes within the purview of the State Government/Urban Local Body / Urban Development Authority.

In order to regulate the Over-exploitation and consequent depletion of ground water, the Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing 'National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme' (NAQUIM) for aquifer mapping in the country including in areas which have recorded a high depletion of ground water, in phases. Out of the total mappable area of nearly 25 lakh sq km, so far aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared for an area of nearly 11.60 lakh sq km spread over various parts of the country. The details are shared with concerned State Government for taking suitable interventions.

Further, important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) & (c) of Starred Question No. *204 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.03.2020 regarding Water Stressed districts

State-wise Categorization of Over- Exploited Blocks/Mandals/Talukas in India

S. No.	States / Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Over-Exploited	
			Nos.	%
	States			
1	Andhra Pradesh	670	45	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11	0	0
3	Assam	28	0	0
4	Bihar	534	12	2
5	Chhattisgarh	146	0	0
6	Delhi	34	22	65
7	Goa	12	0	0
8	Gujarat	248	25	10
9	Haryana	128	78	61
10	Himachal Pradesh	8	4	50
11	Jammu & Kashmir	22	0	0
12	Jharkhand	260	3	1
13	Karnataka	176	45	26
14	Kerala	152	1	1
15	Madhya Pradesh	313	22	7
16	Maharashtra	353	11	3
17	Manipur	9	0	0
18	Meghalaya	11	0	0
19	Mizoram	26	0	0
20	Nagaland	11	0	0
21	Odisha	314	0	0
22	Punjab	138	109	79
23	Rajasthan	295	185	63
24	Sikkim	4	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	1166	462	40
26	Telangana	584	70	12
27	Tripura	59	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh*	830	91	11
29	Uttarakhand	18	0	0
30	West Bengal **	268	0	0
	Total States	6828	1185	17
	Union Territories			
1	Andaman & Nicobar	36	0	0
2	Chandigarh	1	0	0
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0
4	Daman & Diu	2	0	0
5	Lakshdweep	9	0	0
6	Puducherry	4	1	25
	Total UTs	53	1	2
	Grand Total	6881	1186	17

Note

Blocks- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, M.P., Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal

Taluks -Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra

Mandals- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

Districts/Valley- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland

Islands - Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Firka-Tamil Nadu

Region - Puducherry

UT - Chandigarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu **Tehsil-NCT Delhi, *Uttar Pradesh:** There are total 820 block and 10 Cities
