

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2425
ANSWERED ON 05.03.2020

GROUND WATER TABLE LEVEL

2425. SHRI L.S. TEJASVI SURYA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government for increasing the level of ground water table in the country;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the number of industrial units granted permission for extracting ground water in critical and over exploited zones and if so, the measures taken to mitigate it;
- (c) the mechanism framed by the Government to ensure that the industries which are extracting ground water will also have to recharge sufficient ground water as mandated in their licence;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the Indian Easement Act, 1882 which grants landowner unlimited right to dig and extract ground water within his or her premises; and
- (e) the list of water stressed regions and their ground water levels, year and State-wise from 2008?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) 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.

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.

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.

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

(b) Yes sir, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is regulating ground water for industries/ infrastructure/ mining projects in 23 States & UTs as per the prevailing guidelines of CGWA and maintains details in this regard.

Further, other States / UTs are regulating ground water development through their own Acts, notifications or Government Orders.

(c) While according NOC to the projects, conditions for rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water along with recycle/ reuse of water is one of the mandatory requirements to be implemented by the project proponents. The criteria for water conservation/ recharge measures as per the guidelines for different areas based on stage of ground water development are given in **Annexure-I**.

Further, CGWA has also appointed the District Magistrate / District Collector of each Revenue District and Regional Directors of CGWB as Authorized Officers, with power to enforce compliance of NOC conditions.

(d) As per information received from Ministry of Law & Justice, no such proposal is under consideration.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the 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.

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.

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'. 33 States/UTs have adopted the rainwater harvesting provisions. The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all the buildings. The implementation of the rainwater harvesting policy comes within the purview of the State Government/Urban Local Body / Urban Development Authority. As per Model Building Bye Laws-2016, provision of rainwater harvesting is applicable to all residential plots above 100 sq.m.

(e) The State wise ground water level in water stressed areas (Over Exploited and Critical Blocks) from 2008 to 2019 is given in **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE I

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Unstarred Question No. 2425 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.03.2020 regarding “Ground Water Table Level”.

Criteria for recharge

Industries:

Category	Withdrawal permitted (% of proposed recharge)
Safe	NOC is required for ground water withdrawal subject to adoption of artificial recharge to ground water.
Semi-critical	Withdrawal may be permitted subject to implementation of ground water recharge measures. The withdrawal should not exceed 200% of the recharged quantity.
Critical	Withdrawal may be permitted subject to implementation of ground water recharge measures. The withdrawal should not exceed 100% of the recharged quantity.
Over-exploited	Withdrawal may be permitted subject to implementation of ground water recharge measures. The withdrawal should not exceed 50% of the recharged quantity.

Water Intensive Industries:

Category	Ground Water Withdrawal Limit
Safe	Withdrawal limited to 200% of ground water recharge.
Semi-Critical	Withdrawal limited to 100% of ground water recharge
Critical	Withdrawal limited to 50% of ground water recharge
Over-Exploited	No permission for Industries under this category.

ANNEXURE-II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (e) of Unstarred Question No. 2425 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.03.2020 regarding “Ground Water Table Level”.

State wise ground water level in water stressed areas (Over Exploited and Critical Blocks) from 2008 to 2019

Sl. No	Name of the State having OE / Critical Blocks (Water Stressed Areas)	Number of OE blocks in the State (2017)	Number of Critical blocks in the State (2017)	Premonsoon Average Water level (m bgl)											
				2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	Andhra Pradesh	45	24	14.8	12.5	8.0	7.6	9.8	10.9	9.7	10.6	7.9	11.6	18.4	22.5
2	Bihar	12	18	5.3	5.8	6.4	6.7	5.6	5.2	7.4	7.1	7.5	7.6	8.1	8.6
3	Chhattisgarh	0	2	7.5	11.4	10.3	6.4	9.5	8.2	7.6	5.8	8.9	8.6	7.1	8.0
4	Delhi	22	2	19.8	20.0	18.8	18.6	19.6	20.4	19.4	19.1	19.5	24.3	23.2	19.8
5	Gujarat	25	5	39.7	39.6	37.2	28.5	42.3	43.1	42.7	33.9	39.2	39.4	38.8	37.8
6	Haryana	78	3	14.4	14.5	15.1	16.0	17.1	17.1	17.4	19.4	20.5	21.2	19.7	19.8
7	Himachal Pradesh	4	0	10.5	9.7	8.1	4.5	5.1	8.2	9.2	6.9	8.2	7.9	5.9	7.7
8	Jharkhand	3	2	6.0	7.8	7.8	8.9	7.9	7.8	7.6	6.3	7.0	6.2	6.6	7.0
9	Karnataka	45	8	11.7	10.8	10.4	9.9	13.2	18.3	18.1	10.6	11.7	14.0	11.9	14.9
10	Kerala	1	2	8.7	11.4	9.8	10.0	9.5	11.2	12.7	9.2	10.6	11.4	12.5	10.7
11	Madhya Pradesh	22	7	15.5	13.2	13.3	14.1	14.9	15.8	12.8	15.7	17.1	15.2	15.7	15.7
12	Maharashtra	11	9	11.7	11.9	12.8	11.8	10.0	11.2	10.5	10.4	13.4	12.5	13.1	16.3
13	Pondicherry	1	0	10.4	13.0	11.9	10.1	13.0	2.8	12.7	12.6	13.6	15.2	2.4	16.2
14	Punjab	109	2	13.1	13.4	14.1	14.7	16.4	17.2	15.4	16.0	17.7	18.3	18.8	18.3
15	Rajasthan	185	33	25.7	26.2	27.5	26.5	25.6	26.3	25.8	25.0	25.5	25.5	26.3	26.7
16	Tamil Nadu	462	79	7.9	10.3	11.0	8.2	10.2	9.6	12.0	8.9	8.1	12.5	9.6	11.9
17	Telangana	70	67	8.6	8.1	8.6	8.6	10.6	11.4	9.5	13.3	13.7	11.9	11.5	14.3
18	Uttar Pradesh	91	48	11.7	11.5	12.5	10.9	11.3	11.0	11.5	11.6	12.9	12.5	13.7	12.9
19	West Bengal	0	1	10.0	9.5	13.8	14.3	13.8	15.4	14.5	14.1	14.6	14.0	12.7	10.5
