

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4218
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2020

SCHEME FOR IMPROVEMENT OF GROUND WATER

†4218. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated a new scheme for improvement in the ground water in the country with the help of World Bank;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government also plans to make legislation for use of water in the country including Bundelkhand and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of the efforts being made by the Government with Non-Governmental Organisation and other organisations for creating awareness about the use of water?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) The Government has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs.6000 Crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.

The scheme has two components, viz. i) Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component, aimed at strengthening the ground water governance mechanism in the participating States and ii) Incentive Component, aimed at incentivizing the States for various measures for ensuring the long-term sustainability of ground water resources.

The scheme envisages active participation of the communities, including women, in various activities such as formation of Water User Associations, monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, preparation and implementation of Gram-Panchayat wise water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management.

(c) Water being a State subject, it is the prerogative of the State Governments to frame various Acts for sustainable management of water for any purpose.

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.

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.

(d) Central Ground Water Board has prepared "Empowering Village Communities for A Sustainable Water Future: A Resource Book for village level para-hydrogeologists" jointly with MARVI (Managing Aquifer Recharge and Sustaining Groundwater Use through Village-level Intervention) partners which, inter-alia, include Western Sydney University, Australia, CSIRO Land & Water, Australia, Arid Communities and Technologies, Bhuj and Development Support Center, Ahmedabad. This is a step which is likely to help facilitate participation of village communities in ground water resource management including adequate awareness generation, ensuring a sustainable water future.

Further, Ministry has undertaken a number of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities for creating awareness among various target groups viz. organizing workshops/Seminars/Conferences, institution of National Water awards, social media campaign through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.
