

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †4275
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2020

DEPLETING GROUNDWATER TABLE

†4275. SHRI BALAK NATH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the groundwater table is continuously depleting in various districts of Rajasthan including Alwar district;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for water harvesting and water conservation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of efforts being made for rain water harvesting through small ponds and step wells in the rural areas;
- (e) whether the Government is also taking the assistance of private institutions in rain water harvesting; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the Country on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. In order to assess the decline in water level on a long-term basis, Pre-monsoon water level data collected by CGWB during Pre-monsoon 2019 has been compared with the decadal average (2009-2018). Analysis of water level data indicates that about 61% of the wells monitored have registered decline in ground water levels, mostly in the range of 0 – 2 m.

In the state of Rajasthan, 66% of the wells show decline in water level, out of which around 16% wells show more than 4m decline. In the district of Alwar, 89% of the wells analysed show decline in ground water level, out of which 68 % wells show decline in more than 4 m range.

(b) & (c) 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, 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 Shibar' 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.

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

The expenditure made in Water Conservation & Water Harvesting under MGNREGS during last year and current year in the State of Rajasthan & Alwar district as uploaded by the State in the MIS after following due procedures of the programme is as under:

Water Conservation and Water Harvesting works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA- RAJASTHAN (as on 16th March 2020)				
RAJASTHAN	COMPLETED		ONGOING	
	Number of works	Expenditure in lakhs	Number of works	Expenditure in lakhs
2019-20	9030	17957.03	42635	142138
2018-19	8833	41031.14	37825	71704.03

Water Conservation and Water Harvesting works under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA- ALWAR DISTRICT (as on 16th March 2020)				
ALWAR DISTRICT	COMPLETED		ONGOING	
	Number of works	Expenditure in lakhs	Number of works	Expenditure in lakhs
2019-20	756	784.41	1937	3721.57
2018-19	264	1908.81	1342	1561.21

The other important measures taken by the Central Government towards sustainable management of ground water in the country are given at the following URL:[http:// mowr.gov.in/sites/default/ files/ Steps to control water depletion Jun 2019.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun_2019.pdf).

(d) The Farm ponds and wells completed in all States/UTs under MGNREGS last year and current years uploaded by the States in the MIS after following due procedures of the programme is as under:

Farm Pond & Well completed under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS (as on 16th March, 2020)				
	2019-20		2018-19	
	Number of works completed	Total Expenditure in Lakhs	Number of works completed	Total Expenditure in Lakhs
ALL STATES/UTs				
Farm Pond	187302	255595	347128	301973.1
Well	86286	183784	115003	206085.5

(e) No Sir.

(f) Question does not arise in view of reply in para (e)
