

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †897
ANSWERED ON 17.09.2020

FRESH SURVEY OF GROUND WATER

†897. SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government aims to issue notification to remove dark zone in various areas/blocks of Nagaur, Jodhpur and Barmer districts of Rajasthan by conducting a fresh survey of ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any policy to increase ground water level by water recharging in various dark zones of Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & b) No such proposal is under consideration in the Ministry. However, the Ministry has constituted a committee under Central Ground Water Board for assessment of dynamic groundwater resources in the country for the year 2020 in collaboration with States/UTs.

(c) & d) 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. 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' is one of such initiative in this direction in Rajasthan.

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.

In addition, Government of India is implementing 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.

National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The Policy document has been forwarded to all States/UTs including Rajasthan for adoption.

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 including Rajasthan. 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. In sync with the Model bill, Rajasthan has made rainwater harvesting mandatory for all public buildings and establishments and all properties in plots covering more than 300 sqmt in urban areas.

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 for which guidelines/ criteria have been framed which includes rainwater harvesting as one of the provisions while issuing No Objection Certificate.
