

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1615
ANSWERED ON 11.02.2021

SURVEYING OF GROUND WATER BODIES

1615. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government plans to formulate any new policy for surveying underground water bodies and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of unlimited digging of borewells and extraction of ground water in drought prone areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to control the same?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) No sir. However, 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 extant methodology.

Besides, CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme to delineate aquifer (water bearing formation) disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans.

(b) & (c) As per the assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources 2017, Out of the total 6881 assessment units (Block/ Taluks/ Mandals/ watersheds/ Firkas) in the country, 1186 units in 17 States/UTs have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where Annual Ground Water Extraction is more than Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource.

With a view to facilitate sustainable development of ground water, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is presently granting No Objection Certificates (NOCs) with mandatory conditions in 19 States and 02 Union Territories (UTs) as per the extant ground water regulation guidelines. In balance States/UTs they are regulating as per their extant provisions. The latest guidelines (with pan-India applicability) for regulation and control of groundwater extraction in the country have been notified by the Ministry on 24 Sep 2020. The guidelines can be accessed through the web-link <http://cgwa-noc.gov.in/LandingPage/Guidlines/NewGuidelinesNotified250920.pdf#ZOOM=100>.

Further, the guidelines provide for registering the drilling rigs by the States/UTs to maintain a database of wells drilled by them to control illegal extraction of groundwater.

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://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf.
