

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3758**  
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2021

**DEPLETING WATER TABLE**

3758. SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy/strategy has been formulated to resolve the problem of depleting water table in Punjab and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any empirical research/study to assess the quantity of river water available in Punjab and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up any tribunal to assess/ascertain the availability of water in Punjab; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated time period by which such a tribunal is likely to be set up?

**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. 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](http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf).

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, 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 including in 20 districts of Punjab. 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, Ministry launched 'JSA-II-Catch the Rain' on 21 December 2020 for awareness generation among people.

As per information received from Government of Punjab initiatives taken by them for sustainable management of the ground water in the State is given at **Annexure-I**.

(b) No specific research/study has been done for Punjab, however, details of average annual water availability for the country, basin-wise as per the Central water Commission report entitled 'Reassessment of Water availability in India using Space Inputs' is given at **Annexure-II**.

(c) & (d) The Parliament has enacted Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valley thereof. Central Government generally constitutes a Water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the water disputes based on a request from concerned State under the said Act..

Dispute among Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan in respect of Ravi and Beas river waters is presently subjudice before the Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal. The details in this regard are given in **Annexure-III**).

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**Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Unstarred Question No. 3758 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 18.03.2021 regarding “Depleting Water Table”.**

**Initiatives taken by Punjab for sustainable management of the ground water in the State**

1. Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Act, 2020 has been notified on 12.02.2020. The Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority under the Act has been constituted which will work as per the State Water Plan, to be approved by the State Water Council.
2. State Government has set-up a dedicated Directorate of Ground Water Management, with the prime objective of conserving and managing water resources.
3. Punjab Government has engaged M/s Mekorot, National Water Company of Israel to formulate the Water Conservation and Management Master Plan for the State of Punjab.
4. The Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Ordinance, 2008 - The Ordinance provides for the prohibition of sowing nursery of paddy before 10th May and transplanting paddy before 15th June. The contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance invites penalty, in addition to the expenses incurred for destroying the nursery of paddy sown or, transplanted before the specified or notified dates.
5. Diversification from Paddy to Maize under National Adaptation for climate change for 2019-20 has been undertaken for 2019-20.
6. Encouragement of Resource Conservation Technology (RCT) like Laser Land Leveling, Zera Tilling, etc. is being done in farming communities. The State government provides subsidy to farmers for custom hiring of this machinery.
7. Medium/Short Duration Rice Cultivars are being promoted over long duration ones, to save water. Information regarding the same is being disseminated at district, block and village level camps. Further, these varieties are being popularized through demonstration plots.
8. Rain Efficient Conveyance of Irrigation Water through Under Ground Pipeline System (UGPS): The Department of Soil and Water Conservation, Punjab has prepared action plan for underground pipeline benefiting selected area during next 5 years. The Department is implementing schemes for promoting pipe line based irrigation system by providing financial assistance.
9. Micro Irrigation: Farmers growing vegetables/horticulture crops and some regions which are not conducive to paddy cultivation are being tapped for 100% coverage of micro irrigation. The Department has prepared action plan for Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation systems during next 5 years. 14 clusters of area have been identified, out of which, project proposal for 5 clusters have been submitted for funding under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change. Remaining clusters shall be taken up under NABARD.
10. Use of Treated Water for Irrigation: Government of Punjab has implemented irrigation projects from Sewerage Treatment Plants of the State.
11. Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting has been made mandatory in all buildings above 200 sq. yards by amending the buildings by-laws vide Notification dated 28.12.2005. Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting is being considered to be made mandatory (outside municipal limits also) in buildings constructed in areas where water table is falling.
12. The “Paani Bachao, Paisa Kamao” Scheme was launched by Government of Punjab to check depletion of underground water by offering monetary benefits to the farmers for every unit of power they save.
13. Punjab has constructed low dams to provide irrigation facilities under Bharat Nirman Program. These dams facilitate in augmenting the Ground Water Resources of the State & in arresting the declining ground water table.

**Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of Unstarred Question No. 3758 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 18.03.2021 regarding “Depleting Water Table”.**

**Basin-wise Details of Average Annual Water Availability in India.**

Sl. No.	River Basin	Catchment area (sq.km)	Average Water Resources Potential (BCM)
1.	Indus	317708	45.53
2.	Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna		
	(a) Ganga	838803	509.52
	(b) Brahmaputra	193252	527.28
	(c) Barak & others	86335	86.67
3.	Godavari	312150	117.74
4.	Krishna	259439	89.04
5.	Cauvery	85167	27.67
6.	Subarnarekha	26804	15.05
7.	Brahmani-Baitarani	53902	35.65
8.	Mahanadi	144905	73.00
9.	Pennar	54905	11.02
10.	Mahi	39566	14.96
11.	Sabarmati	31901	12.96
12.	Narmada	96659.79	58.21
13.	Tapi	65805.80	26.24
14.	West Flowing Rivers from Tapi to Tadri	58360	118.35
15.	West Flowing Rivers from Tadri to Kanyakumari	54231	119.06
16.	East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Pennar	82073	26.41
17.	East Flowing Rivers between Pennar & Kanyakumari	101657	26.74
18.	West Flowing rivers of Kutch and Surashtra including Luni	192112	26.93
19.	Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	144835.90	Negligible
20.	Minor Rivers draining into Myanmar (Burma) and Bangladesh	31382	31.17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3271953</b>	<b>1999.20</b>

Source: Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, June 2019.

**ANNEXURE-III**

**Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) & (d) of Unstarred Question No. 3758 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 18.03.2021 regarding “Depleting Water Table”.**

<b>Name of Tribunal</b>	<b>States concerned</b>	<b>Date of constitution</b>	<b>Present Status</b>
Ravi & Beas Water Tribunal	Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan	April, 1986	Report and decision under section 5(2) of ISRWD Act given in April, 1987. Clarification/explanation sought from the Tribunal under Section 5(3) of the said Act by the party States. The matter is sub-judice.

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