

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 651
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2021

GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY IN PUNJAB

651. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the ground water availability to Punjab farmers for irrigation purposes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that Eighty percent of Punjab Ground Water Blocks have dried up in a bid to provide foodgrains to the rest of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any note of such a serious situation of Punjab waters and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has made any plan to help Punjab regain its precious water resource and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

- (a) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country including Punjab are being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per the 2017 assessment, in Punjab, the Total Annual Ground Water Recharge is about 23.9 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is about 21.6 BCM. The Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses is about 35.8 BCM out of which about 34.6 BCM has been utilized for Irrigation activities.
- (b) & (c) As per the 2017 assessment, out of the total 138 assessment units (Block) in Punjab, 109 units (79%) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where the Annual Ground Water Extraction is more than Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource. Further 02 units have been categorized as 'Critical', 05 units as 'Semi- critical' and 22 units as 'Safe'.
- (d) 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.

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.

Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). As per information received from Department of Rural Development, water conservation and water harvesting works taken up / completed under MGNREGS in last two years is given as under:

State	2020-21				2019-20			
	COMPLETED		ONGOING		COMPLETED		ONGOING	
	NO. OF WORKS	EXPENDITURE IN RS. LAKHS	NO. OF WORKS	EXPENDITURE IN RS. LAKHS	NO. OF WORKS	EXPENDITURE IN RS. LAKHS	NO. OF WORKS	EXPENDITURE IN RS. LAKHS
PUNJAB	243	237	1488	859	476	586	1094	495

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**.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.651 to be answered on 04.02.2021 on 'GROUND WATER AVAILABILITY IN PUNJAB'.

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 benefitting 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.