

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1782
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2021

DECLINING GROUND WATER LEVEL

1782. DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to address the constantly falling ground water table in most parts of Haryana, especially in Rohtak and Jhajjar districts of Haryana; and
- (b) if so, the details of efforts made and outcomes achieved so far?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b) Yes sir, Government has taken a number of steps to ensure sustainable management of water resources in the country including in Haryana. Further, water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation & water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are available at the following URL:

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

In addition, 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 Shibir' 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, Kudimaramath scheme in Tamil Nadu among others.

Further some of the important initiatives for sustainable management of water resources in the country including in Haryana and their status (in Haryana) is given as under:

- i. 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 19 districts of Haryana. 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, 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan – Catch the Rain' campaign has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 22 March 2021.

- ii. Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, RD & GR (DoWR, RD & GR) is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs.6,000.00 crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. Atal Jal is being implemented in 81 water stressed districts (including 14 districts in Haryana) and 8774 Gram Panchayats of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- iii. 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 also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 19 States/UTs including Haryana have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.
- iv. Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) - 2016 circulated by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States / UTs. So far 32 States / UTs including Haryana have adopted the provisions of rainwater harvesting of MBBL-2016.
- v. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. In the state of Haryana, the Master Plan envisages construction of about 7.4 lakhs Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures to harness 679 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of Monsoon rainfall. The Master plan for Haryana includes recommendation for construction of 1258 Recharge Shafts, 13650 Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (RTRWH) Structures and 8252 Farm ponds in Jhajjar District and 11745 RTRWH structures & 7213 Farm ponds in Rohtak District.
- vi. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM), which envisages mapping of aquifers (water bearing formations), their characterization and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of Ground Water Resources. The entire Haryana including Rohtak and Jhajjar district has been covered under this programme. The management plans are shared with the State government for taking appropriate measures / implementation.
- vii. Some of the initiatives by Haryana for sustainable management of water resources is given in **Annexure.**

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Unstarred Question No. 1782 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 29.07.2021 regarding “Declining Ground Water level”.

Some of the initiatives by Haryana for sustainable management of water resources

- a. The State Government has enacted “The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020” vide notification dated 07.12.2020 for conservation, management and regulation of water resources.
- b. The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority has been established under Section 3 of the Haryana Water Resources Act to take action for misuse/ illegal extraction of groundwater.
- c. “The Haryana State Preservation of Sub Soil Water Act, 2009” has been enacted which prohibits sowing of Paddy before 15th of May and transplanting of Paddy before 15th of June.
- d. The State encourages the farmers to adopt suitable Drip Irrigation System and Sprinkler Irrigation System by providing suitable subsidy.
- e. To reduce seepage and evaporation losses, suitable subsidy is being provided to the farmers for laying Underground Pipe Line System.
- f. Crop Diversification programmes have been launched in the State for conservation of natural groundwater resource, alternate crops e.g. maize, sunflower, cotton, vegetables, bajra and summer moong etc. are being promoted in place of water guzzling paddy. A program namely ‘Mera Pani Meri Virasat’ has been launched in the State during 2020-21.
- g. Roof-top Rain Water Harvesting Structures are constructed in the Govt. buildings such as Schools/ Colleges/ Govt. offices for artificially recharging the groundwater aquifers. 957 numbers of Roof-top Rain Water Harvesting Structures constructed till 2020-21.
