

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 555
ANSWERED ON 22.07.2021
SCARCITY OF WATER

555. SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of any instances of scarcity of water in the State of Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that the State of Rajasthan has been facing instances of scarcity of water during summer prompting locals to walk long distances to access water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the places where the issue is prevalent and the actions taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure that pipelines are constructed to increase access to water; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof including the number of such pipelines constructed each year during the last three years including the location of the same and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) & (b) As per the information made available by the Government of Rajasthan, scarcity of water in the state is due to only 1% availability of water against 5.5% population of the country; average rainfall of only 532 mm along with frequent drought due to deficit & scanty rainfall pattern, depletion of water table and availability of only 2 perennial rivers in the state.

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 2020 assessment, in Rajasthan, the Total Annual Ground Water Recharge is 12 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 11 BCM. The Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses is 17 BCM, which is 150% of Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources.

In Rajasthan, out of the total 295 assessment units (Blocks), 203 Blocks have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where Annual Ground Water Extraction is more than Annual Extractable Ground Water Resources. 23 Blocks have been categorised as 'Critical', 29 Blocks have been categorised as 'Semi-Critical', 3 Blocks have been categorised as Saline and rest of the Blocks are 'Safe'.

(c) to (f) The Government of Rajasthan informed that the state has been facing scarcity of water specially during summers in desert and Eastern part of the State. State Government is taking Short term & Long term measures to provide drinking water in affected rural and urban areas.

Under short term measures, hand pump repairing campaign, transportation of water by road, commissioning of hand pumps, tube wells, RO Plants, defluoridation plants have been taken up. Under

long term measures, about 8.68 lakh Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) have been provided since launch of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Public Health Engineering Department has started execution of surface source based major water supply projects, covering several towns and villages.

The following works have been executed during last three years, which also include works of pipeline:

- Major Project —20 towns, 4890 villages and 4277 dhanies have been benefited with surface source water through tap connections & Public Stand Posts.
- Rural Sector — 8.68 lacs FHTCs.
- Urban Sector — 2.75 lacs tap connections.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25th June, 2015 in select 500 cities and towns across the country. One of the key objectives of the Mission is to ensure that every household has access to a tap connection with assured supply of water and this needs to be given first priority by the State while selecting projects under AMRUT. The water supply component includes new, augmentation and rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies for drinking water supply and special water supply arrangement for difficult areas, hills and coastal cities, including those having water quality problem. Under AMRUT Mission, out of the total plan size of Rs.77, 640 crore, Rs.39,010 crore (50%) has been allocated to water supply. The State of Rajasthan has been allocated Rs.3,223.94 crore for project implementation under AMRUT, of which Rs.1,007.36 crore has been allocated to water supply sector. The State has taken water supply projects worth Rs.1022.47 crore, of which 7 projects worth Rs.156.16 crore have been completed and 24 projects worth Rs.866.31 crore are at various stages of implementation.

The Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal, which aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long term basis to every rural household including tribal areas of the country through tap water connection by 2024.

Department of Land Resources has sanctioned, 1025 watershed development projects in Rajasthan covering an area of about 57.64 lakh hectare during the period 2009-10 to 2014-15 under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), later amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in 2015-16. The activities undertaken *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for nomadic persons, etc. As per information received from the State, since 2014-15 to 2020-21, 1.48 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated. An additional area of 0.97 lakh ha has been brought under protective irrigation. The end-line evaluation reports received from state reveal that there is significant improvement in availability of surface and ground water, increase in productivity, vegetative cover, enhanced livelihood opportunities and house hold incomes in project areas.