

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3003**

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2022

**WATER SCARCITY IN PUNJAB**

3003 SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to address the water scarcity problem highlighted by a National Green Tribunal (NGT) monitoring committee that announced recently that Punjab's groundwater would drop below 300 metres by the year 2039;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps pursuant to the 2020 block-wise groundwater resources assessment by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) which found that most of the districts in Punjab had over-exploited the ground water levels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a) to (b)** Water being a State subject addressing water scarcity problem including taking corrective action falls under States' mandate. However, Central Government has taken a number of important measures in the country including Punjab for conservation, management of ground water including effective implementation of rain water, which can be seen at [http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water\\_depletion\\_july2022.pdf](http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf). Further, the details of some of the important steps taken by the Government of Punjab for sustainable management of the water are given at **Annexure**.

Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country including Punjab. First JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts which continued during the year 2021 (across entire country both rural and urban areas) also with the primary aim to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc. JSA for the year 2021 and 2022 were launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble President on 22.03.2021 and 29.03.2022 respectively.

Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Amrit Sarovar Mission on 24th April 2022. The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country including Punjab as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The Central Government has notified groundwater regulation guidelines dated 24.09.2020 with pan India applicability for controlling the extraction of groundwater by various consumers/project proponents like industries, infrastructure projects and mining projects under which No Objection Certificate (NOC) for extraction has been made mandatory.

Central Ground Water board (CGWB) is implementing National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM) with an aim to identify the groundwater aquifer system along-with their characterization for its sustainable management. Entire mappable area of Punjab (50368 Sq KM) has been completed by the CGWB and the study report along-with management plans have been shared with the State for suitable interventions.

Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater - 2020 has been prepared by CGWB in consultation with States/UTs. The Master plan envisages construction of 11.00 Lakh structures (both rural and urban areas) in Punjab at a tentative cost of Rs 6773.00 Cr. The Master Plan has been shared with the State for appropriate implementation.

**(c) & (d)** CGWB undertakes groundwater resource assessment periodically for the entire country in collaboration with States/UTs. Last such assessment was done in 2020. Further, this Department notified groundwater regulation guidelines dated 24 Sep 2020 with pan India applicability for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for groundwater extraction by various consumers like industries, infrastructure projects and mining projects etc as per notified provisions. All other efforts/steps for sustainable groundwater management are mentioned in para (a) and (b) above.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3003 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING “WATER SCARCITY IN PUNJAB”**

The some of the important steps taken by the Government of Punjab for sustainable management the ground water in the State of Punjab are:

1. As per Notification dated 25 August 2010 issued by the State government "All the building located on plot area of 400 Square Meters and above, shall have Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting System to recharge Ground water.
2. The Punjab Water Resources Regulation and Development Authority (PWRDA) has been established to ensure conservation, management and regulation of water in the State.
3. Punjab Government had engaged M/s Mekorot National Water Company of Israel to prepare Water Conservation and Management Master Plan (WCMMP) for the State of Punjab for Management and Conservation of water in the State.
4. The Punjab government had launched ‘Pani Bachao, Paise Kamao’ scheme on the 14th of June 2018 which is targeted towards proper utilization and conservation of water and electricity.
5. State Government has set-up a dedicated Directorate of Ground Water Management, with the prime objective of conserving and managing water resources.
6. Soil and Water Conservation Department is making efforts to encourage water conservation techniques in all districts of State so as to ensure the optimum use of the irrigation water. In addition, adoption of Micro Irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation) system is being promoted in the State.
7. Encouragement of Resource Conservation Technology (RCT) like Laser Land Levelling, Zero Tilling, etc. is being done in farming communities. The state government provides subsidy to farmers for custom hiring of this machinery.
8. Medium/Short Duration Rice Cultivars are being promoted over long duration ones, to save water.
9. The State is implementing schemes for promoting pipeline based irrigation system by providing financial assistance.
10. Government of Punjab has implemented irrigation projects from sewage water generated from Sewerage Treatment Plants of the State.
11. Government of 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.