

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3076

ANSWERED ON 04.08.2022

WATER AVAILABILITY IN PUNJAB

3076 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 current volume 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;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such a tribunal would be set up; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government for ground water rejuvenation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being a State subject, water management including formulation of policy/strategy is States' responsibility. However, a number of steps have been taken by the Central Government for sustainable management of groundwater in the country, including Punjab. The details in this regard can be accessed through http://jalshaktidowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf. The salient features of these initiatives are as follows:

(i) The Ministry has finalized the National Water Policy 2012, whose provisions can be appropriately utilized while framing the water legislations by the States/UTs. The water policy advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall, water demand management, increasing water use efficiency, water pricing including incentivisation of recycle & reuse of water etc.

(ii) Department 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 Punjab, have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

(iii) Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has formulated Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 for the States/UTs, wherein adequate focus has been given on requirement of rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures. As per MBBL, all buildings having a plot size of 100 sq.m. or, more shall

mandatorily include the complete proposal of rainwater harvesting. 33 States/ UTs, including Punjab, have adopted the features of the Bye Laws.

(iv) Government of India is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in the country, including Punjab. JSA was launched in 2019 in water stressed blocks of 256 districts. In 2021, JSA was taken up in the entire country, both rural and urban areas. In 2022, JSA has been launched by Hon'ble President on 29.03.2022. The primary aim of JSA is to effectively harvest the monsoon rainfall through creation of artificial recharge structures, watershed management, recharge and reuse structures, intensive afforestation and awareness generation etc.

(b) Water being a State subject, estimation of quantum of river water available in Punjab is the responsibility of the State Government. However, the average annual utilizable surface water resources in Indian river basins is assessed as 690.10 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The Basin-wise details in this regard, including rivers passing through Punjab, are given at **Annexure**.

(c) & (d) A three member Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal was set up in April 1986 to verify and adjudicate the matters regarding usage of water among States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. The tribunal was made fully functional by appointing Chairman and Members in July 2020.

(e) Important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management in the country, including Punjab, are given in reply to part (a) above.

Further, Hon'ble Prime Minister has 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 is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore, in collaboration with States, in certain water stressed areas of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The primary aim of the scheme is demand side management through scientific means involving the local communities at village levels leading to sustainable groundwater management in the targeted areas.

CGWB is implementing National Aquifer Mapping Program (NAQUIM) in the country, including Punjab, for its sustainable management. Out of the total mappable area of nearly 25 lakh sq km, nearly 22.10 lakh sq km of the area (as on 30th June 2022) in the country has been covered. The NAQUIM study report alongwith management plans are shared with States/UTs for suitable interventions.

Water is a State subject and several States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting such as '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, 'Pani Bachao Paise Kamao' scheme in Punjab and 'Kudimaramath' scheme in Tamil Nadu.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3076 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.08.2022 REGARDING “WATER AVAILABILITY IN PUNJAB”.

The average annual utilizable surface water resources in Indian River Basins

River Basin	Utilisable Surface Water Resources (BCM)
Indus (up to Border)	46
a) Ganga	250
b) Brahmaputra,	24
c) Barak & Others	
Godavari	76.3
Krishna	58
Cauvery	19
Subernarekha	6.80
Brahmani & Baitarni	18.30
Mahanadi	50
Pennar	6.90
Mahi	3.10
Sabarmati	1.90
Narmada	34.50
Tapi	14.50
West Flowing Rivers From Tapi to Tadri	11.90
West Flowing Rivers From Tadri to Kanyakumari	24.30
East Flowing Rivers Between Mahanadi & Pennar	13.10
East Flowing Rivers Between Pennar And Kanyakumari	16.50
West Flowing Rivers Of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni	15
Area of Inland drainage in Rajasthan	N.A
Minor River Draining into Myanmar(Burma) & Bangladesh	N.A
TOTAL	690.10

Source: National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIRD), 1999