

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *148

ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

MULTIPLE BOARDS FOR WATER RELATED ISSUES

*148. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that multiple bodies such as State and Central Pollution Control Boards and the Central Ground Water Board etc. at both State and Central level currently bear responsibility for issues related to water;
- (b) if so, whether it is a fact that such multiple bodies have led to time delays while adjudicating on essential matters;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has considered creating a central body with representation from all such bodies at the State and Central level so that essential decisions may be taken without undue time delays; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

- (a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “MULTIPLE BOARDS FOR WATER RELATED ISSUES”

(a) Water management in India is primarily a responsibility of State Governments, the Central Government's roles and responsibilities being only supportive. Various agencies having distinct mandates, roles and jurisdictions are working in the water sector. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), established under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of streams and wells. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, is a multidisciplinary scientific organization tasked with managing, exploring, monitoring, assessing, augmenting and regulating the country's groundwater resources. State Ground Water Authorities, formed under State legislation or government orders, regulate groundwater resources within their jurisdictions. The Central Ground Water Authority, established under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, oversees groundwater regulation in states and union Territories that do not have their own regulatory mechanisms.

(b) Since all the bodies have independent area of work function there is no reported time delay in adjudication on essential matters.

(c) & d) The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been taking various initiatives to create a common platform for various central and state agencies involved in the water management sector for proper exchange of views, capacity building and enhancing the ease of operations. In this direction, a National Interdepartmental Steering Committee (NISC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, has been constituted for the management of overall water resources in the country including groundwater through cohesive, holistic manner and with unified approach. Members of the NISC include representatives from allied Central Ministries/Departments and State Governments, which meets annually.
