

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 558

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

WATER SHORTAGE

558. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether global rating firm Moody has warned that India's growing water shortage can negatively affect the country's sovereign credit strength;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether fast depleting water level in the country is severely affecting the industrial and economic sector like coal power generators and steel makers and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether per capita water availability in the country is likely to drop to 1367 cubic meters by 2031 from an already low 1486 cubic meters in 2021;
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to conserve the water for future generation; and
- (f) whether the Government has started any initiative or awareness campaign among people about the importance of conserving water and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) According to global rating firm Moody, water shortage can negatively affect the India's sovereign credit strength as reported in various media reports.

The average annual water availability for any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. As per study titled "Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019" conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1486 cubic meter and 1367 cubic meter respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1,700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1,000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

(c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors groundwater levels throughout the country on a regional scale, four times in every year during the months of March/April/May, August, November and January through a network of its Monitoring Wells. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has not conducted a specific study addressing the impact of rapidly depleting water levels on the industrial and economic sectors, such as coal power generators and steel makers. However, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) issues 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' for groundwater extraction to industries,

infrastructure projects and mining projects as per guidelines dated 24.09.2020, notified by Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) and amendments dated 29.03.2023 thereto.

(d) & (e) 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 is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 6,000 crore in 8203 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 229 administrative Blocks/ Talukas in 80 districts of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2020. The scheme marks a paradigm shift from groundwater development to groundwater management. The scheme focuses on demand side interventions (such as micro-irrigation, crop diversification, use of pipelines etc.) as well as supply side interventions (such as check dams, farm ponds and other artificial recharge/water conservation structures).

The Mission Amrit Sarovar was launched on National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April 2022 as a part of celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with an objective to conserve water for future. The mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country.

Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day by 2024. Apart from providing tap water to every household, JJM focuses on implementation of source sustainability measures such as recharge and reuse through grey water management, water conservation, rainwater harvesting by using natural vegetative and indigenous techniques.

Government of India has launched AMRUT 2.0 on 1st October, 2021 for a period of 5 years (FY 2021- 22 to 2025-26), with the objective of providing universal coverage of water supply through functional household tap connections in all statutory towns in the country. AMRUT 2.0 focuses on making specified cities water secure through recycle/ reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation. Building Bye Laws in urban areas have been made to make rain water harvesting and recharging/injecting into the ground aquifer.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched during the year 2015-16, with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and for expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on-farm water use efficiency, introducing sustainable water conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going major/ medium irrigation projects in the country having balance estimated cost of Rs.77,595 crore under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) have been prioritised, in consultation with States, for completion in phases. The extension of PMKSY for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 has been approved by Government of India, with an overall outlay of Rs. 93,068.56 crore.

The Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) Programme has been brought under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Har Khet Ko Pani from 2015-16 onwards. The

main objective of taking up CAD works is to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created, and improve agriculture production on a sustainable basis through Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing "Per Drop More Crop" component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) which is operational from 2015-16 in the India. The PMKSY- "Per Drop More Crop" mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation system).

The Government has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, to facilitate promotion of water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc and inter alia also assess water footprint.

The Government of India formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) of interlinking of rivers for transferring water from surplus basins to deficit basins. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports/ Detailed Project Reports under Inter-linking of Rivers Project. However, river interlinking projects are largely dependent on consensus on water sharing between participating States.

Steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other Central Ministries for Water conservation, Control and regulation of ground water and to promote rain water harvesting / artificial recharge/ water use efficiency etc. can be seen at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2024/07/20240716706354487.pdf>

(f) 'Sahi Fasal' campaign was launched by National Water Mission (NWM) in 2019 to nudge farmers in the water stressed areas to grow crops which use water very efficiently, are economically remunerative, are healthy and nutritious, suited to the agro-climatic-hydro characteristics of the area, and are environment friendly.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan-I (JSA-I) was conducted in 2019 in 1,592 blocks out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water stressed districts of the country and was expanded as "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) in 2021 with the theme "Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls" to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country. "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) -2024 campaign, the fifth in the series of JSAs, was launched on March 9, 2024. This campaign covers all districts in the country, both rural and urban, under the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti" emphasizing the crucial role of women in water conservation. The focused interventions of the campaign include (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies (iii) preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (iv) intensive afforestation and (v) awareness generation.

Mass awareness programs (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, Trade Fairs, and Painting Competitions, etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the Information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of DoWR, RD & GR in various parts of the country to promote rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater.
