

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *356

ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

"BHU-NEER" PORTAL

*356 SHRI ANANTA NAYAK SHRI MANOJ TIWARI

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features, aims and objectives of the 'Bhu-Neer' Portal launched by the Central Ground Water Authority for management of groundwater resources;
- (b) the manner in which this portal would facilitate the use of groundwater at industrial and individual levels including creating awareness among the people in the country;
- (c) the way in which the planning and execution process has been structured along with the expected rollout timeline for implementation of the portal in the country including Delhi and other urban regions;
- (d) the details of the intended outcomes of the initiative and the way in which it would benefit the people in the country including residents of Delhi;
- (e) whether the portal integrates real-time data from remote sensing and IoT-based groundwater monitoring systems and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the role of local governance institutions, such as panchayats in utilising the portal for sustainable groundwater management; and
- (g) the manner in which the portal would contribute to groundwater conservation under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain initiative?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *356 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING ““BHU-NEER” PORTAL”

(a) "Bhu-Neer", is a new state of the art portal launched by CGWA recently for the purpose of filing and processing online applications for ground water abstraction by various users/project proponents and issuance of NOCs. With regard to the salient features, the Bhu-Neer portal is designed to serve as a one-stop platform for managing and regulating ground water resources, aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency and sustainability in ground water usage. The portal is developed with several user-friendly features to offer streamlined process flow to the project proponents and some of the important ones are:

- A simplified yet informative interface.
- Check eligibility feature before filing the application.
- PAN based single Id system.
- Online charges calculator for conveying the charges to be paid in advance.
- Track application history and real time progress updates through SMS & e-mails.
- Passbook feature to get full information of transactions made by the user in the portal.
- Query module for one-to-one interaction between the applicants and CGWA officials.
- NOC with QR code for enhanced security and ease of verification.

(b) Applications seeking NOC for ground water abstraction can be filed on the Bhu-Neer portal by different categories of users like Industries, Mining projects, Infrastructure projects and Bulk water suppliers.

Keeping the Ease of Doing Business paradigm in mind, the pages of the portal have been designed to minimize the time and effort for filling the application and to provide all requisite information at one place. It has been specifically ensured that in the Bhu-Neer, the number of modules and fields to be filled in the application are kept to the minimum.

Further, understanding that while ensuring availability of sufficient water to the industries, it is also important to maintain sustainability of ground water resources, the Bhu-Neer portal lays emphasis on disseminating correct and complete knowledge regarding statutory provisions and the general conditions to be followed by the industries while withdrawing the ground water like installation of water flow meters, recycle and reuse of extracted water for stipulated uses, well head protection measures for preventing aquifer contamination etc. all of which are made available through a single window.

With Bhu-Neer portal, not just the business users, but also common people will be able to know the Dos and Don'ts of ground water extraction related issues, thus making the regulatory framework more accessible, transparent and robust for all stakeholders.

(c) The Bhu-Neer Portal has already been made live on 30th October 2024 for online filing and processing of fresh and renewal applications of NOC. However CGWA does not regulate GW in the NCT Delhi.

(d) The primary objective and intended outcome of the Bhu-Neer portal is to put in place a smooth and efficient mechanism for regulation of ground water development and management by providing a quick and easy to use platform for filing NOC applications ground water abstraction.

However, by making the project proponents more aware and compliant of the ground water regulation provisions, it is expected to usher in more mindful use of ground water leading to sustainability in ground water usage in the country.

(e) At present, the integration of real time data from remote sensing and IoT based groundwater monitoring system has not been incorporated in the Bhu-Neer portal.

(f) & (g) As stated, the Bhu-Neer portal is primarily meant for providing a web platform for filing, processing and issuing NOCs for ground water abstraction and is not linked to panchayat level ground water management or Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

However, by virtue of having a strengthened regulatory framework, the portal may lead to substantial ground water conservation as a lateral outcome.
