GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2978

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2024

SALINITY IN WATER BODIES IN RAIGAD

†2978. SHRI TATKARE SUNIL DATTATREY

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 32,000 hectares of land along the coast and creeks have become saline which resulted in decline of crop yielding drastically due to broken bunds in some areas of Raigad district of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the groundwater in the said areas has become unsuitable for irrigation due to salinity and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to restore the broken bunds in Raigad district to reduce the salinity in water bodies?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY**)**

(a) & (b) Planning, funding, execution and maintenance of water resources projects, including construction and maintenance of bunds lies in the domain of the concerned State Governments. Role of Government of India is limited to providing technical support and in some cases, partial financial assistance under the existing schemes. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under this ministry generates ground water quality data of the country including Maharashtra state on a regional scale as part of its ground water quality monitoring program and various scientific studies.

Government of Maharashtra has informed that in Raigad district there are 165 saline embankments (Kharland Bunds). Out of these, 72 numbers of schemes have been renovated before 15 years. Raigad district falls in heavy rainfall region and high tidal zone. Because of heavy rainfall in monsoon season and high spring tides, these old schemes have been severely eroded and deteriorated. Hence, there are frequent breaches of these schemes during heavy rainfall and high tide. But emergency repairs of these breached sections are immediately done with available funds to avoid intrusion of saline water in agricultural land.

During the year 2023-24, a total of 50 groundwater samples were collected by CGWB from Raigad district, Maharashtra. The chemical analysis of these samples indicates that two samples i.e. Sukeli and Dapoli from Roha block exhibited high electric conductivity (EC) of 3,864 and 19,200 µs/cm respectively; while, the remaining 48 samples recorded EC values below 1500 µS/cm.

Further, suitability of ground water for irrigation not only depends on EC but also depends on Percent Sodium, Sodium absorption values, Residual Sodium Carbonate, Soil type and crop management practices.

(c) As a short term measure in order to protect area under Kharland bunds, the works are carried out by the Government of Maharashtra at the places where there is disturbance of the bunds due to heavy rainfall and spring tides. As long-term measures, renovation of Kharland bunds has been undertaken by Government of Maharashtra. Some of the recent interventions are as follows.

i. Through Maharashtra State fund, 5 schemes (Kalai, Burdi, Jamrutkhar, Tokekhar and Warathi) have been renovated in year 2023-24 resulting in protection of 171 hectares of land. 8 schemes to protect 1,345 hectares of land (Vadhav Borze, Mankule Sonkotha Hashivare, Wave Potage, Shenvai Pahal, Banumarium, Kandalwada, Kudgaon Harvit and Khargaon Budruk) are ongoing.

ii. Under National cyclone risk mitigation program (NCRMP), renovation of two kharland schemes (Narvel Benavale and Kachali Pitkari) has been completed in March 2024. Due to these two schemes, total 1,722 hectares area has been protected.

iii. Through Maharashtra State fund, 6 schemes for protection of 1,728 hectare land (Shahabaj, Dhakatapada Shahapur, Manoranjan, Walake Satirde, Karanjavira and Mahadevkhar Mhalunge) have been sanctioned by Government of Maharashtra during 2023-24. In addition, Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned 14 schemes during 2023-24 for protection of 1,735 hectare area under Konkan Disaster Mitigation (Konkan Package) Programme.

*****