

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 677

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

WATER SCARCITY IN NORTH EASTERN REGION

677. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI

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

- (a) the details of availability of ground water in North Eastern Region (NER) during the last ten years and the current year, year and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that water scarcity is gradually becoming one of the most important issue in NER;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the impact of water scarcity for the people of NER?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources Assessment of the country is being regularly carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States/UTs including North East India. The year-wise and state-wise annual extractable groundwater resources of NE States based on the assessments done during previous ten years are given below:

S. No.	State	Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource in BCM (Billion Cubic Meters)				
		2023	2022	2020	2017	2013*
1	Arunachal Pradesh	4.16	4.07	2.916	2.67	3.99
2	Assam	20.93	21.4	21.966	24.26	28.9
3	Manipur	0.466	0.47	0.46	0.39	0.42
4	Meghalaya	1.51	1.51	1.82	1.64	2.98
5	Mizoram	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.035
6	Nagaland	0.54	0.71	1.95	1.98	1.75
7	Tripura	1.09	1.064	1.245	1.24	2.26
8	Sikkim	0.218	0.244	0.864	1.52	Not Assessed
Total		29.114	29.668	31.421	33.89	40.335

*Ground Water Resource Assessment for the year 2013 was conducted based on GEC-1997 methodology which was subsequently revised and replaced with GEC-2015 methodology which has been used for resource assessment from the year 2017 onwards.

(b) to (d) The government is cognizant of the importance of ground water resources in the country including in the North-Eastern Region. However, Water being a State subject, sustainable development and management of groundwater resources, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Central Government facilitates the efforts of the State Governments by way of technical and financial assistance through its various schemes and projects. In this direction, the important steps taken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and other central ministries are given below :

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of the country including the entire mappable area of 89,596 sq. kms in the North-Eastern States. The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures.
- CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 5.4 lakh structures in North-Eastern States who are working on devising a suitable action plan for its implementation.
- Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) from 2015-16 in the Country. PDMC mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision/micro irrigation & better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. PDMC being a central sector scheme, funding to NE states is provided in the ratio of 90:10.
- Department of Land Resources is implementing Watershed Development Component of PMKSY scheme (PMKSY-WDC) under which rejuvenation of springs in the hilly areas is given importance.
- Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation including North-Eastern States of Assam and Nagaland. The model bill envisages that in urban areas, rain water available from roof tops of buildings and other open areas can be utilized gainfully for ground water recharge. Rain water

harvesting structures feasible in urban areas include recharge pits, trench, existing tube wells or open wells etc.

- The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under MoJS under section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country. Abstraction cum use of Groundwater in the country is regulated by CGWA by way of issuing NOCs as per the provisions of its Guidelines dated 24.09.2020 which have pan India applicability.
- National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water, conservation of river, river bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has released Model Building Bye-laws, 2016 which recommends Rainwater Harvesting for all types of Building with plot size 100 sq.m or more. So far, 35 States have incorporated the provisions in their respective building bye laws.

In addition to the above, the Government of India has taken several other significant initiatives for the improvement of groundwater situation in the country which can be seen through link below-
<https://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/document/steps-taken-by-the-central-government-to-control-water-depletion-and-promote-rain-water-harvesting-conservation/>
