

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3361

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

AVAILABILITY OF RAVI-BEAS RIVER WATER

3361. SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL

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

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to reassess the availability of Ravi-Beas rivers waters based on international norms, as requested by Punjab;
- (b) the manner in which the Government is planning to address the alarming rate of groundwater depletion in the Punjab given that 76.5% of State's blocks are over-exploited;
- (c) whether there are any centrally sponsored schemes specifically aimed at groundwater conservation in Punjab and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the stance of the Government on Punjab's claim to Yamuna waters under the successor state principle as the said State argues while Haryana benefits from Ravi-Beas waters and the reasons for exclusion of Yamuna from apportionment;
- (e) whether the Government is providing any technical or financial assistance to Punjab to further enhance its irrigation infrastructure and reduce groundwater dependence, considering the State has increased canal water utilization from 21% to 84% for irrigation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the expected timeline for the Ravi-Beas Tribunal's decision?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) The allocation of surplus Ravi-Beas waters was done amongst the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan as per the 1981 Agreement on the basis of flow series of 1921-1960 (17.17 MAF). The Agreement also provides that in case of any variation in the figure of 17.17 MAF in any year, the shares shall be changed pro-rata, without changing the allocations made to Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi water supply.

(b) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being assessed annually from 2022 jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per Ground Water Resource Assessment-2024, the total annual ground water extraction in Punjab has been assessed as 27.66 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of which 26.24 BCM is for irrigation use.

Out of 153 assessment units, 115 assessment units (75.16%) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 4 blocks (2.61%) as 'Critical', 12 blocks (7.84%) as 'Semi Critical' and 22 blocks (14.38%) as 'Safe'.

Water being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources development are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Role of Government of India is limited to being catalytic, providing technical support and, in some cases partial financial assistance in terms with the existing schemes being implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. However, various steps have been taken to encourage water harvesting in country:

- National Aquifer Mapping Studies have been carried out in State of Punjab for an area of 50369 Sq. km. Based on NAQUIM studies, groundwater management plans have been prepared and reports have been shared with State and District Authorities.
- NAQUIM 2.0 studies were taken up in priority areas of Ludhiana and Sangrur districts under poor quality and over-exploited area category respectively in Punjab to obtain information in higher granularity to provide issue based scientific inputs for groundwater management.
- Master plan for artificial recharge for 23 water stressed districts of Punjab on a scale of 1:50000 covering an area of 48537 sq. km has been prepared & shared with state government. 485366 nos. of farm ponds and 689761 nos. of rooftop rain water harvesting structures have been proposed.
- GIS based Recharge plan has been prepared for 20 districts.
- A total of 34 nos. of Public interaction programs have been organized in various parts of Punjab in which 3148 people participated. Tier - II and Tier - III level trainings are being conducted since 2012 to promote awareness on the importance of participatory groundwater management and to spread awareness among the masses to reduce the dependence on groundwater and restore the water table. Total 06 nos. of Tier II and 15 nos. of Tier III trainings have been organized so far.
- National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water. In urban areas, rainwater harvesting wherever techno-economically feasible, should be encouraged to increase availability of utilizable water. Implementation of rainwater harvesting should include scientific monitoring of parameters like hydrogeology, groundwater contamination, pollution and spring discharges.
- Besides, 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, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 21 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation. 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.
- 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.

(c) Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) Scheme is a continuing Central Sector Scheme implemented in the country including Punjab. The scheme has been approved for continuation for the period 2021-26. Under the GWMR scheme, activities related to exploration, monitoring, assessment and management of ground water resources are carried out across the country, including Punjab with an aim to provide scientific inputs for sustainable development and management of ground water resources.

(d) For the allocation of the utilisable surface water resources of river Yamuna upto Okhla, a MoU was signed between five co-basin states viz. Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (including Uttarakhand), Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi in 1994. As per the MoU the water in the said basin was being utilised by these co-basin States at ex-Tajewala and ex-Okhla for meeting their irrigation and drinking water needs. Accordingly, the utilizable water resources of the river Yamuna (upto Okhla) are allocated to the above co-basin States.

(e) In Punjab State, there is one major multipurpose project (Shahpurkandi Dam Project), two Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) projects (Relining of Sirhind Feeder Canal and Relining of Rajasthan Feeder Canal) and one Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) project (Kotla Branch Part-II) which are being partially funded by Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. For these ongoing projects, a total Central Assistance of Rs. 1,330.38 Crore has been released. Further, two projects namely Kandi Canal Extension Phase II and Rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch Project in Punjab have been completed under PMKSY-AIBP.

Through these projects, new irrigation potential is being created, lost irrigation potential is restored, gap between irrigation potential created and utilized is being bridged to enhance contribution of surface water in irrigation.

(f) Ravi Beas Waters Tribunal (RBWT) was constituted under Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 on 02.04.1986. The Tribunal has forwarded its report under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act on 30.01.1987. Further, the Tribunal is in receipt of references under Section 5(3) of the ISRWD Act from the concerned State Governments and the Central Government for giving such explanation or guidance as it deems fit. Since, the further report under Section 5(3) of the ISRWD Act is still to be submitted by the Tribunal, the time to submit the further report by Tribunal has been extended from time to time. It was last extended vide Gazette Notification No. S.O. 3114 (E) dated 02.08.2024 till 05.08.2025.
