

QUESTION DETAILS

MINISTRY OF : JAL SHAKTI

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1654

TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.07.2019

Exploitation of groundwater

1654. Shri G.C. Chandrashekhar

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

- (a) whether exploitation of groundwater and its overuse has led to very visible and consistent water crisis and if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) whether Surveys by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and Indian and US space agencies, viz. ISRO and NASA respectively paint a frightening picture and if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) features of Atal Bhujal Yojana for sustainable management of groundwater with community participation; and
- (d) whether geographical priority areas have been identified under the Yojana and if so, the details of the identified overexploited and water stressed areas for implementation of the Yojana, State-wise, including Karnataka?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) & (b) Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining because of continuous withdrawal due to reasons such as increased demand of fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization & urbanization etc.

The Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resource of the country is being estimated jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments at periodical intervals. As per the 2017 assessment, out of the total 6881 assessment units (Block/ Taluks/ Mandals/ watersheds/ Firkas) in the Country, 1186 units in 17 States/UTs have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where ground water extraction is more than net ground water availability and there is significant long-term decline in water levels.

In order to assess the declining/rising trend in water level on a long-term basis, pre-monsoon water level data 2018 has been compared with the decadal average (2008-2017) water level. Analysis of data indicates decline in ground water level in about 52% of the wells and rise in 48% wells being monitored.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister has written a letter to all sarpanchs on 08.06.2019 regarding the importance of water conservation and harvesting and exhorted them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.

Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. The important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

(c) & (d) The World Bank has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY), a Rs.6000 Crore scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank. The identified over-exploited (OE) and water stressed areas for the implementation of the scheme fall in the States of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

ABHY envisages active participation of the communities in various activities such as formation of 'Water User Associations', monitoring and disseminating ground water data, water budgeting, preparation & implementation of Gram-Panchayat-wise water security plans and IEC activities related to sustainable ground water management. State-wise details are given in Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (c) & (d) of Unstarred Q.No. 1654 to be answered in Rajya Sabha on 08.07.2019 regarding "Exploitation of Groundwater"

State-wise details of Atal Bhujal Yojana

S.No.	State	Districts	Blocks	GPs	Area (in Sq. kms)
1	Haryana	13	36	1,895	12,650
2	Gujarat	6	24	1,816	18,122
3	Karnataka	14	41	1,199	39,703
4	Maharashtra	13	35	1,339	13,209
5	Rajasthan	17	22	876	53,386
6	Uttar Pradesh	10	26	550	13,134
7	Madhya Pradesh	5	9	678	8,319
	TOTAL	78	193	8,353	158,523

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