

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4187
ANSWERED ON 18.07.2019

DEPLETING GROUND WATER

4187. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of rapid depletion of ground water in the country and if so, the action taken to regularise the use of ground water;
- (b) whether the Government is aware of the use of ground water in large quantity for commercial purpose and if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government analysed the catastrophic negative impacts of ground water depletion in food security and poverty and if so, the initiative taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to introduce common pool resource model and if so, the details of the action taken thereon;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to give priority to drinking water purpose and if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to restrict the extraction of ground water in critical areas, if so, the details of action taken and the areas identified?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (c) The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of the country are being periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments. As per the 2017 assessment, Total Annual Ground Water Recharge is 432 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and the Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 393 BCM. The Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses is 249 BCM. The Stage of Ground Water Extraction, which is a measure of Annual Ground Water Extraction for all uses (irrigation, industrial and domestic uses) over Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 63% for the country as a whole.

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 Annual Ground Water Extraction is more than Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource. State-wise details are given at **Annexure**.

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

An 'Inter Ministerial Committee' under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR, RD & GR) has been constituted to take forward the subject of 'Water Conservation Related Activities for Optimum Utilization of Monsoon Rainfall' which meets from time to time to discuss the issue of water conservation. The Committee includes officers from different States/UTs. Last meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee was held on 01/05/2019.

Cabinet Secretary discussed the issue of water conservation with the Chief Secretaries of the States through video-conference on 21.05.2019.

The issue was also discussed with the concerned Ministers and officials of the State Governments by Minister Jal Shakti in a meeting held on 11.6.2019.

In order to regulate the over-exploitation and consequent depletion of ground water, a Model Bill has been circulated to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.

Further, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted 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.

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. The other important initiatives taken up are available at the following URL:

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

(d) & (e) National Water Policy (2012) emphasizes that Water needs to be managed as a common pool community resource held, by the State, under public trust doctrine to achieve food security, support livelihood, and ensure equitable and sustainable development for all". Further, it also prioritises water use with safe water for drinking and sanitation as pre-emptive needs, followed by high priority allocation for other basic domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum eco-system needs. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should be allocated in a manner to promote its conservation and efficient use.

The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all States/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.

(f) As per the directives of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, CGWA has stopped grant of NOC for ground water extraction for Industrial, Infrastructure unit and Mining projects located in 'Over-exploited', 'Critical' and 'Semi-critical' assessment units except for drinking and domestic uses.

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Unstarred Q.No. 4187 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 18.07.2019 regarding “Depleting Ground Water”

CATEGORIZATION OF BLOCKS/ MANDALS/ TALUKAS IN INDIA (2017)

S.No.	States / Union Territories	Total No. of Assessed Units	Semi-Critical		Critical		Over-Exploited	
			Nos.	%	Nos.	%	Nos.	%
	States							
1	Andhra Pradesh	670	60	9	24	4	45	7
2	Arunachal Pradesh	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	28	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	534	72	13	18	3	12	2
5	Chhattisgarh	146	22	15	2	1	0	0
6	Delhi	34	7	21	2	6	22	65
7	Goa	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Gujarat	248	11	4	5	2	25	10
9	Haryana	128	21	16	3	2	78	61
10	Himachal Pradesh	8	1	13	0	0	4	50
11	Jammu & Kashmir	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Jharkhand	260	10	4	2	1	3	1
13	Karnataka	176	26	15	8	5	45	26
14	Kerala	152	30	20	2	1	1	1
15	Madhya Pradesh	313	44	14	7	2	22	7
16	Maharashtra	353	61	17	9	3	11	3
17	Manipur	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Meghalaya	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Mizoram	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Nagaland	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	Odisha	314	5	2	0	0	0	0
22	Punjab	138	5	4	2	1	109	79
23	Rajasthan	295	29	10	33	11	185	63
24	Sikkim	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	1166	163	14	79	7	462	40
26	Telangana	584	169	29	67	11	70	12
27	Tripura	59	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh*	830	151	18	48	6	91	11
29	Uttarakhand	18	5	28	0	0	0	0
30	West Bengal **	268	76	28	1	0	0	0
	Total States	6828	968	14	312	5	1185	17
	Union Territories							
1	Andaman & Nicobar	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Chandigarh	1	1	100	0	0	0	0
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Daman & Diu	2	0	0	1	50	0	0
5	Lakshdweep	9	3	33	0	0	0	0
6	Puducherry	4	0	0	0	0	1	25
	Total UTs	53	4	8	1	2	1	2
	Grand Total	6881	972	14	313	5	1186	17

Note

Blocks- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, M.P., Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh,

Taluks -Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra

Mandals- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana

Districts/Valley- Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland

Islands - Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Firka-Tamil Nadu

Region - Puducherry

UT - Chandigarh, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu

Tehsil-NCT Delhi

***Uttar Pradesh:** There are total 820 block and 10 Cities

**The Ground Water resources assessment as on 2013 has been considered for the state of West Bengal
