

- The Ministry of Water Resources has instituted 20 Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Award to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/Gram Panchayats/Urban Local Bodies/Institutions/Corporate Sector and Individuals for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, promoting water use efficiency, recycling and re-use of water and creating awareness through people's participation.
- Ministry of Water Resources have circulated to the States/UTs the Model Bill to Regulate and Control Development of Ground Water', which provides for making rooftop rain water harvesting mandatory. So far 11 States/Union Territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation.
- Central Ground Water Board organizes IEC activities like mass awareness and training programmes, painting completion, displaying models in exhibitions and fairs, printing of Meghdoot cards, display of hoardings at prominent public places etc.

Proposal for dam projects

2788. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had received many proposals from State Governments to fast track dam projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many States were creating hindrances in creation or addition of dam level; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Presently, 51 major/medium projects from various states have been getting central assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) from Government of India including execution of dam portion in the project.

Apart from this, at present 13 proposals of Major/Medium irrigation projects which include execution of dam portion also are under various stages of appraisal in CWC.

(c) and (d) No hindrances from the States of their own projects for creation or addition of dam level has come to the notice of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India.

Water scarcity

2789. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the UN Report on Water Scarcity in the globe has recently been released;
- (b) if so , the details thereof;
- (c) what has been stated about India in the report; and
- (d) what action Government proposes to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The United Nations World Water Development Report 4 has been recently released at the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille. The report, *inter alia*, indicates India as hotspots in 5 categories, namely, increased water scarcity threat, flood prone, drought prone, elevated ecosystem/climate change risk and poor access to sanitation.

(d) With a view to meet the growing demands of water, Various measures are taken by the respective State Governments for bringing the available water resources within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent, which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, adoption of better management practices, etc. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government through technical and financial assistance.

Unfit ground water

2790. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ground water is unfit for human use and also for drinking purpose in many areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to correct the situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) As per ground water quality data generated by Central Ground Water Board during the course of Ground Water Regime Monitoring and various scientific studies like Ground Water Management Studies, Ground Water