

(c) whether Government is aware of its impact on quantum of water flowing to Hirakund Dam in Odisha to meet their existing commitments for power plants and for agricultural and non-agricultural uses; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per information available in CWC, the State of Chhattisgarh has allocated 113 Million Cubic Meter (MCM) of water from Mahanadi river to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for generation of thermal power at Lara in Raigarh district.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Odisha has reported that they are aware of requirement of water for power plants, for agricultural and non-agricultural use and the effect of any reduction of inflow into Hirakud reservoir due to use by Chhattisgarh for non-agricultural purposes is not felt by Odisha.

Depletion of groundwater level in Rajasthan

†765. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundwater level in Rajasthan is continuously depleting;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State to control it; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Central Government, so far, to check the depletion of groundwater level?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors ground water levels on a regional basis four times a year through a network of 15653 ground water observation wells located in India including in the State of Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, ground water level monitoring data of pre-monsoon 2013 compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2003-2012) indicates that of the wells analysed, about half have shown decline.

(b) and (c) A State Sector Scheme “Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through Dug Wells” of Ministry of Water Resources was implemented in 31 districts of Rajasthan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

during 2007-2010. Under this scheme, funds to the tune of Rs. 29.80 crore were released through NABARD covering 88753 beneficiaries for construction of dug well recharge structures in their farm land. Under Central Sector Scheme of "Ground Water Management and Regulation" also, Rs. 404.78 lakh were sanctioned for Demonstrative Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting projects during Eleventh Plan.

Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are taken by the concerned State Governments. Besides, in order to supplement the efforts of State Governments, the Central Government has taken following steps:—

- (i) Extending technical and financial support to States/UTs under schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; Command Area Development and Water Management; Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies for conservation of water resources in the Country.
- (ii) CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for artificial recharge to ground water in the Country.
- (iii) Setting up of National Water Mission with the objective of, *inter-alia*, conservation of water resources.
- (iv) Circulation of a Model Bill by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation, development and conservation; and
- (v) Advisory by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to all the Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of the Union Territories, having 'Over-exploited' blocks, to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting etc.

Rainwater harvesting

†766. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that every year most of the rainwater in rainy season drains into sea without any utilization;
- (b) whether Government/Ministry has proposed any scheme to harvest rainwater so that this water may be used as far as possible for basic needs; and

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