

benefits of irrigation and power, increase in growth rate of agriculture, growth of direct and indirect employment, improvement in the quality of life of people in rural areas and mitigation of floods and drought etc. The study has been uploaded on web site of National Water Development Agency *i.e.* [www.nwda.gov.in](http://www.nwda.gov.in). The NCAER report has mentioned about the various benefits of the Interlinking Projects as a whole/and does not indicate its benefits State-wise. No comment has been received from any State Government. At present, no interlinking project under National Perspective Plan (NPP) is under implementation.

#### **Rainwater harvesting in Maharashtra**

769. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in Maharashtra, the rainwater is allowed to flow into the Arabian Sea rather than being stored in tanks and ponds and utilised to raise the groundwater level;

(b) whether the groundwater level in the State has recently plummeted to all time lows; and

(c) if so, what steps Government is taking to implement rainwater harvesting on a large scale in the State?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Due to seasonal, geographical and annual variation in availability of rain water as well as inadequate storage in tanks and ponds, a part of rainfall during monsoon season flows into the Arabian sea from the Konkan region of Maharashtra.

(b) 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 throughout the Country, including in the State of Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, 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.

(c) With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by the respective State Governments which, *inter-alia*, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Central

Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments 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. The State Government has informed that they have taken following measures:—

- (i) Enacted “Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purpose) Act, 1993”. Further, the Maharashtra Legislature has passed Maharashtra Ground Water (Development and Management) Act, 2009. This Act has been sent for assent of Hon’ble President of India. One of the components of the Act is adoption of rainwater harvesting measures.
- (ii) Implementation of water conservation schemes/programs such as Integrated Watershed Development Program, *Marathawada Panlot* Mission, *Vidarbha Panlot* Mission with priority to ‘Over-exploited’, ‘Critical’ and ‘Semi-critical’ watersheds, funded by Central and State Governments.
- (iii) Promoting artificial recharge to ground water and rain water harvesting in the State. Modified Maharashtra Regional Town Planning Act, 1966 provides for ensuring installation of rain water harvesting system before issuing occupancy certificate for buildings etc.

#### **Depletion of water level in Jharkhand**

770. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water level in Jharkhand has depleted drastically during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether most of the rivers of Gumla and Lohardagga districts in the State have dried up;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources