

- (ii) Department of Biotechnology has formulated and implemented a number of programmes related to medical technologies and biodesign innovation. These include; Stanford-India Biodesign programme; Healthcare Technology Innovation Centre; Centre for Bioscience and Bioengineering; and Centre for Biodesign and *in-vitro* diagnostics.
- (iii) Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) has launched "Patent Acquisition and Collaborative Research and Technology Development (PACE)" scheme in the Twelfth Five Year Plan with an aim to support Indian industries to acquire patented technology at an early stage, add value to the acquired technology, either independently or in collaboration with public funded research institutions in India or abroad for exploitation in Indian/ foreign markets and develop "Made in India" innovative and socially relevant products for public consumption. Innovation Complexes of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) catalyze innovation eco-system in the region, incubate platform technologies in the identified areas, incubate spinoffs and nurture Micro Small and Medium Sector Enterprises (MSMEs) in the designated fields through innovative inputs. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) encourages invention promotion, leverages innovations and inventions for competitiveness through its activities.

#### **Depletion in underground water level**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the level of underground water in the country is depleting constantly and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the action being taken by the Central Government to increase the underground water level; and
- (c) the details of funds provided to various States for the purpose in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, in the Country. Ground water monitoring data of CGWB for pre-monsoon 2013, compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2003-2012), indicates that there was a rise in water level in respect of 44% of the wells and fall in 56% of the wells

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

analysed. Groundwater is being exploited for drinking, irrigation and various other purposes due to which ground water levels in some parts of the country are declining.

(b) The Central Government promotes water conservation measures in the Country by supplementing efforts of State Governments for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources. Steps taken by the Central Government include:—

- (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.
- (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/rainwater harvesting.
- (vi) The Central Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation, under implementation during Twelfth Plan, *inter-alia*, envisages participatory management of groundwater involving Panchayati Raj Institutions, local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders for ensuring sustainable management of groundwater resources in the country, etc.

(c) Central Ground Water Board, had undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during Eleventh Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management and Regulation". As a spill over under the Scheme an amount of Rs. 343.417 lakh has been released to 7 States namely Bihar (Rs. 28.8 lakh), Delhi (Rs. 13.029 lakh), Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 71.5 lakh), Jammu and Kashmir (Rs. 16.659 lakh), Jharkhand (Rs. 67.06 lakh), Karnataka (Rs. 107.615 lakh) and Madhya Pradesh (Rs. 38.754 Lakh) to implementing agencies during the current Financial Year *i.e.* 2013-14.