

Water harvesting

†2388. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would consider issuing directions to the State Governments to make water harvesting mandatory at district and block levels, in view of decreasing water level in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry would provide resources to the States for this purpose; and

(c) if not, whether the Ministry has any other plan to check the decreasing water level and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Ministry of Water Resources, RD and GR has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and 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, 31 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules and regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

The National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR which, *inter alia*, advocates rain water harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall .

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has also issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water I rain water harvesting. Besides, CGWA has also taken up the matter with various Central and State Government organizations for adopting rain water harvesting and recharge to the ground water.

(b) CGWB under Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR had undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during Eleventh Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management and Regulation" in priority areas. The scheme has been discontinued during the Twelfth Plan period.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013, which envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country, at an estimated cost of ₹ 79, 178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water, in an area of 9,41,541 sq. km by harnessing surplus monsoon runoff to augment ground water resources. CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

Besides, CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during Twelfth Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans. These management plans will be shared with the respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures .

Eviction of tribals and farmers in Anguluru

2389. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations from Forum on Social and Human Rights to help displaced people affected by Polavaram dam;

(b) whether it is a fact that a request was made regarding the eviction of tribals and farmers in Anguluru village under Polavaram dam;

(c) whether Government has sent a team to survey the damage and cost of such evictions; and

(d) the steps proposed to extend all help under the new land laws to the villagers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Yes Sir, representation from Forum on Social and Human Rights to help displaced people affected by Polavaram Dam has been received.

(b) The representation is regarding payment of fair compensation to the people displaced by Polavaram Project under New Land Acquisition Act, 2013 and to maintain *status quo* and not evict tribals from Poalvaram Mandal till the issue is resolved.

(c) No Sir.