

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. As per information made available by the State Government, the project is to be completed by March, 2018. However, the completion of project depends on various factors such as availability of funds, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected population, etc.

Ground water level in Tamil Nadu

1755. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average ground water level in Tamil Nadu has declined considerably during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the Country including Tamil Nadu. Ground water level data for pre-monsoon 2015, compared with last five years mean of pre-monsoon (2010-2014) in respect of the State of Tamil Nadu indicates that out of total wells analysed, around 63% wells show rise in ground water level and 37% wells show decline in water level. Around 22.24% of wells are showing decline in the range of 0-2 metre, 9.83% of wells are showing decline in the range of 2-4 metre and 5.17% of the wells are showing decline in the range of more than 4 metre. Decline in ground water levels of more than 4 metre has been observed mainly in parts of Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Namakkal, Permbalur, Pudukkottai, Salem, Shivganga, Trichy, Vellore and Virudhnagar districts.

(b) Government has taken several steps emphasizing rain water harvesting measures in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu:

(i) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, which envisages construction of 193574 artificial recharge structures in Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of ₹ 9284.63 crore to harness 712MCM (Million Cubic Metre) of water to augment ground water resources. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

- (ii) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified 18 areas in Tamil Nadu for regulation and control of ground water development and management.
- (iii) CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country including Tamil Nadu to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.
- (iv) As per Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures.
- (v) Ministry of Urban Development in its Draft Model Building Bye-laws(2015) has incorporated a Chapter on Provision of Rain Water Harvesting (RWH).
- (vi) Tamil Nadu has amended Laws relating to Municipal Corporations and Municipalities, making it mandatory for all the existing and new buildings to provide rain water harvesting facilities. The State has launched implementation of RWH Schemes on a massive scale in Government buildings, private houses/institutions and commercial buildings in urban and rural areas. It has also been made mandatory to include roof top rain water harvesting structures in the plan of the building itself for accordance of approval by the concerned competent authority.

**Restructuring of Central Water Commission and
Central Ground Water Board**

1756. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has constituted a seven member committee to restructure the Central Water Commission and the Central Ground Water Board to encourage optimum development of water resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that with most of the Indian rivers found to be polluted, as per a Central Pollution Control Board assessment, the move hold the potential to help and revive the rivers in a big way; and