

Central Ground Water Board, under this Ministry has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge structures in the country to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

Mass Awareness Programmes, Water Management Training Programmes and other trainings, Workshops, Painting Competitions, Hamara Jal Hamara Jeevan Programmes, Jal Kranti Abhiyan, etc. are organized by this Ministry to support water conservation in rural areas.

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 areas for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures.

State Governments take necessary action for creation of infrastructure for providing safe drinking water to the people in their respective State. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. Ministry of Urban Development is supplementing the efforts of State Governments/Urban Local Bodies in providing water supply in urban areas/Metropolitan cities under the different schemes/programmes.

Demand *vis-a-vis* generation of power in the country

†*15. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of electricity in megawatts in the country at present as against its generation;

(b) whether the Ministry would contemplate enhancing generation of hydro power particularly in hilly States to meet the shortage of electricity;

(c) whether Government would provide funds to States so that they can enhance generation of hydro power by building small dams; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the rising demand of electricity would be met?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The peak demand of Electricity in Megawatt (MW) in the country during the year 2015-16 (April 2015 - March 2016) was 153,366 MW as against the demand met (*i.e.* gross generation minus auxiliary consumption and transmission losses) of 148, 463 MW.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no scheme/policy to provide funds to States for development of hydro projects. The steps taken by the Government to meet the rising demand of electricity, *inter-alia*, are:

- (i) Capacity addition of 1,18,537 MW (including 88,537 MW conventional and 30,000 MW renewable) during the Twelfth Plan, *i.e.* by 2016-17. As against this, about 85,186 MW from conventional sources has been achieved till 31.03.2016 and 17,829 MW from renewable sources till 31.03.2016.
 - (ii) Government of India has taken initiative to prepare State Specific Action Plans for providing 24X7 Power For All (PFA) in partnership with the States.
 - (iii) Two new schemes are being implemented by the Government of India, namely, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development Scheme for strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution networks and for segregation of agricultural feeders to give adequate and reliable supply and reduce line losses.
 - (iv) Promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency and other demand side management measures.
 - (v) Central Government has notified a new scheme namely Ujjawal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) on 20.11.2015 for Operational & Financial Turnaround of Discoms.
 - (vi) Expeditious resolution of issues relating to Environmental and forest clearances for facilitating early completion of generation and transmission projects.
 - (vii) Providing support from Power System Development Fund for stranded gas based generation.
 - (viii) Two schemes worth ₹ 9865 crores are under implementation to improve transmission and distribution system in all North Eastern States including Sikkim.
 - (ix) 220 kV line from Srinagar to Leh *via* Drass, Kargil worth ₹1788 crores is under implementation under Government of India funding to help meet the shortages in Jammu and Kashmir.
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