Mapping of ground water level

†1659. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to go for mapping of ground water for water management throughout the country, in view of falling level of ground water and growing urbanization;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during Twelfth Plan, under the scheme of 'Ground Water Management and Regulation'. An area of 8.89 lakh sq.km. has been targeted for mapping during the plan with priority to water stressed areas. The aquifer mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization along with quantification and for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans. As on March, 2016, mapping of 2.28 lakh sq.km. area has been achieved.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) and (b) above, question does not arise.

Cleanliness of holy water and un-interrupted flow of Ganga

1660. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that main objectives of programme "Namami Gange" is to have clean and continuous flow of holy water called "Swachh and Aviral Dhara";

(b) if so, the details of programmes focussed on both the objectives separately, specifying towards cleanliness of holy water and un-interrupted flow of holy Ganga; and

(c) the time targeted to achieve both the objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The main objectives of "Namami Gange" programme is to have clean flow (Nirmal Dhara) and continuous flow (Aviral Dhara) of water in river Ganga.

(b) The Government is committed to maintaining continuous flow in the river Ganga. Efforts by the Government in this direction include discussions with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Power to ensure uninterrupted flow in river Ganga so that the river is neither fragmented nor loses its character throughout its length.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Various types of pollution abatement schemes are taken up by the Government for clean flow in river Ganga under Namami Gange Programme. These may be categorized into core and non-core schemes. Core schemes include Interception and Diversion (I&D) of sewage discharging into the river Ganga, creating treatment infrastructure to treat the intercepted sewage and creating infrastructure to treat industrial pollutants. Non-core schemes include providing Low Cost Sanitation (LCS) at community and individual levels at identified locations, installation of Crematoria (electric as well as wood based improved crematoria), River Front Development (RFD) including bathing ghats, afforestation, protecting bio-diversity and creating public awareness and participation.

In addition, CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of Water Act, 1974 to 5 Ganga State Pollution Control Boards for obtaining the action plan from the industries for achieving Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) standards. CPCB has also issued show cause notices under Section 5 of E (P) Act, 1986 to all Grossly Polluting Industries (GPI) in 5-Ganga States.

(c) The time target to achieve the objectives of Namami Gange is 2020.

Implementation of water policy

†1661. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether water is a State subject and on account of it, water policy/law enforced by the Central Government could not be implemented uniformly throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal before Government to include water in the Concurrent List, in order to implement water policy/law uniformly throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject as per Entry 17 of List II (State List) of Schedule VII to Constitution of India. However, as per Entry 56 of List I (Union List) of Schedule VII to the Constitution, the Union can intervene, when considered necessary in public interest, in respect of issues relating to inter-State rivers and river valleys. Necessary measures for implementation of different laws/policies relating to water are undertaken by the concerned authorities of the Central and State Governments as per the prescribed provisions.

(c) and (d) The proposal to bring water in the Union/Concurrent List was earlier examined by the two Commissions on Centre-State Relations chaired by Justice R.S. Sarkaria and Justice M.M. Punchhi respectively. The said proposal did not find favour with either of the two Commissions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.