

of Technology, Scientists from Department of Space, NRSC, Indian Meteorological Department and Experts from Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, National Disaster Management Authority and Survey of India.

An Expert Committee on Erosion and Siltation of Rivers (ECESR) under the Chairmanship of Director, Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) has been constituted in May 2016. Members include representatives from National Institute of Hydrology, Indian Institute of Technology, National Remote Sensing Centre and from Water Resources Department of States of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Committee to study erosion, siltation and requirements of desiltation /dredging of rivers, particularly Ganga and Brahmaputra Rivers and suggest remedial measures.

Ministry has taken up the study on climate change under National Water Mission involving various scientific/ research organisations such as Indian Institute of Technology/National Institute of Technology. Central Water Commission has also taken up river morphological studies involving IITs for evolving long term management measures.

The academic/research institutions like IITs/NITs/Central Soil & Material Research Station (CSMRS)/ Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) etc. are involved at planning stage, in carrying out physical and mathematical model studies and to offer appropriate site specific solutions in respect of Flood Management Schemes.

(d) The Ministry has taken up National Hydrology Project (NHP). The NHP envisages setting up of a system for timely and reliable water resources data acquisition, storage, collation and management over a period of next eight years. It will help in gathering hydro-metrological data which will be stored and analysed on real time basis, for flood moderation in the country.

Rain water harvesting

†624. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps for rain water harvesting for irrigation so that water can be saved;

(b) whether Government proposes to prevent the floods which wreak havoc every year by using this rain water for irrigation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN):

(a) Central Government encourages rain water harvesting to arrest the decline in ground water level and save the surplus runoff. These measures help in augmenting the ground water resources which can utilise for various purposes including irrigation. Steps / measures taken by the Government for improving the situation includes:

- The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, *inter-alia*, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption of the policy.
- This Ministry 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.

CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan 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. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

- The Department of Rural Development has prioritized work related with Natural Resources Management (including water harvesting) under MGNREGA and has issued a joint framework with the Ministry of Water Resources and Department of Land Resources. The framework stresses on utilizing the technical resources of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchaai Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Central Water Commission (CWC) along with use of GIS technology of ISRO for

planning and monitoring purposes from FY 2017-18 onwards. For FY 2016-17, the States have taken up a target of 8,82,325 farm ponds.

- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII 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.
- CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited or facing acute water scarcity, as Gai Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.

(b) and (c) As a long term planning, the Government has formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development in the Country, which envisages inter-linkages between various Himalayan rivers and Peninsular rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilization of water resources. This will accrue benefits like creation of additional irrigation potential, additional hydro-power generation, drinking water supply, flood control, drought mitigation etc.

Poisonous effluents into groundwater

625. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of industrial units in the country have been bluntly gushing down untreated, poisonous effluents into groundwater through hidden, secretly installed borings;

(b) if so, the details of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) report in this regard;