

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;

(c) whether various State Pollution Control Boards are ineffective in dealing with such a situation; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government/CPCB proposes to take effective steps to check such rising pollution in groundwater?

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

(a) and (b) In some of the industrial areas, public complaints/references have been received in CPCB regarding injection of treated effluents by the industries into the ground water. However, CPCB has not detected or observed any such injections to the ground water in its surprise inspections carried out for verification of compliance.

(c) and (d) The State Pollution Control Boards while granting consent to operate, prescribe mode of disposal of effluents, which are required to meet the prescribed standards. In any case, the injection of effluents in the ground water is an offence under the 'Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974'. This un-lawful act can be monitored and checked under the Water Act by the State Boards/Committees.

Task force on interlinking of rivers

626. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force set up by Government to look into the matter of interlinking of rivers of the country has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, when the task force is expected to submit its report; and

(d) whether the task force had consulted the Tamil Nadu Government on this issue?

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

(a) Earlier, a Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh P. Prabhu, the then Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha was constituted on December 13, 2002. The Task force held 12 meetings and submitted its report in the form of Action Plans I & II on April 30, 2003 and April 16, 2004 respectively. Thereafter, it was wound up by Ministry of Water Resources with effect from 31.12.2004.