

Status of aquifer mapping

2872. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of aquifer mapping across the country;
- (b) whether Government has formulated any plan to recharge ground water on priority basis in the blocks across the country where ground water is hugely exploited; and
- (c) 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) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme under the Central Scheme of "Ground Water Management and Regulation" during Twelfth Plan with the objectives of delineation and characterization of aquifers including quality issues and preparation of aquifer management plans to ensure sustainability of ground water resources. Against a target of 8.89 lakh km² for the entire plan period, so far aquifer maps and management plans have already been prepared for an area of around 5.20 lakh km².

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has issued 'Mission Water Conservation Guidelines' to be implemented by all the States for scientific planning and execution of water management works with the use of latest technology. The thrust is on Planning and Monitoring Framework for Natural Resource Management (NRM) related works under MGNREGA in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area and Water Management (CAD&WM) schemes. This will lead to better outcomes of water conservation and water harvesting measures.

Steps taken by the Government for conservation of surface and ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/writereaddata/GW_Depletion.pdf.