PROTECTION OF SMALL WATER BODIES

†1431. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to protect small water bodies like wells and different types of ponds, etc.; and

(b) whether Government will formulate a concrete plan to conserve and rejuvenate conventional water bodies in order to arrest fast depletion of groundwater in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Works related to water resources development and management are planned; funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme has multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing the tank storage capacity, Ground Water Recharge, increased availability of drinking water, etc.

XII Plan onwards, 1876 water bodies costing Rs.1529.79 crore from 9 States have been funded under this scheme and Central Assistance of Rs.344.315 crore has been released. Out of these 1876 water bodies, works in 580 water bodies have been reported to be completed.

Scarcity of groundwater

1432. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Water thirst' demand of the country will grow by 1180 bcm from present output of 1137 bcm by 2030;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that rapid unregulated urbanisation in the country will lead to 35 per cent of water scarcity during the next 20 years therefor;

(c) whether due to over exploitation and neglected use of groundwater, during the last 10 years, drought prone areas have increased by 50 per cent thereof; and

(d) if so, plans of Government to overcome the situation and conservation and sustainability of groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) The total water availability of India received through precipitation has been assessed about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum. After evaporation, 1869 BCM water is available as natural runoff. Due to geological and other factors, the utilizable water availability is limited to 1137 BCM per annum comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable ground water.

Total requirement of water in the country for different uses in high demand scenario for the years 2010 and 2025 has been assessed as 710 BCM and 843 BCM respectively. Further, it is projected that in the year 2050, the country's total water demand is estimated at 1180 BCM, outstripping the total availability of 1137 BCM.

The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors and is generally constant. Further, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India; per capita water availability is reducing progressively due to increase in population.

The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may reduce further to 1340 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability of many region of the country is much below the national average and can be considered as water stressed/water scarce.

(c) and (d) Ground water is replenishable resource which gets recharged through rainfall and other sources periodically. As per the Dynamic Ground Water Estimation carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Governments, annual replenishable Ground Water Resource of the country is 447 BCM and the Net Annual Ground Water Availability is 411 BCM. The annual groundwater draft (utilization) is 253 BCM. The stage of groundwater development which is the ratio of groundwater draft with net annual availability is 62%. The level of ground water development is variable across the country. As per the 2013 assessment, out of the total 6584 numbers of assessment units (Block/Taluks/Mandals/ watershed/ Firkka) in the country, 4520 assessment units in the country constituting 69% of the total assessment units are in 'safe' category and offers ample scope for meeting drinking water requirement.

1034 units (16% of the total Assessment Units) have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', where ground water extraction is more than net ground water availability and there is significant long-term decline in water levels. 253 units are 'Critical' (4%) and 681 units are 'Semi-Critical' (10%).

Comparison of Dynamic Water Resource Estimation 2004 and 2013, reveals that in 2004, out of 5723 number of Total Assessment Units, 839 units which constitutes of 15% was under 'Over Exploited' Category. Whereas in 2013, 1034 units (16%) out of 6584 number of Total Assessment Units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited'. There is an only one percent increase in 'Over Exploited' category in a decade.

'Over-exploitation' and consequent depletion of ground water resources is a reversible process and can be controlled through judicious and holistic management of water resources involving both Supply and Demand-side management interventions.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources (including ground water) are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement their efforts, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Steps taken by the Central Government to control ground water depletion in the country are:–

- 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.
- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water – 2013" which provides information about area specific artificial recharge techniques to augment the ground water resources based on the availability of source water and capability of subsurface formations to accommodate it. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.11 crore artificial recharge structures

in urban and rural areas. The Master Plan is available in public domain and has also been circulated to the State Governments for its implementation.

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water.
- CGWB has taken up National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) 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.
- The scheme on 'Ground Water Management & Regulation' of CGWB has a component on Interventions for Aquifer Rejuvenation wherein Artificial Recharge and Rainwater harvesting projects are taken up in coordination with State Governments/ Institutions/ Identified PSUs.
- Government has proposed 'Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)' with the aim to improve ground water management in select over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in identified priority States (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) through implementation of various interventions to ensure long-term sustainability of ground water resources with community participation.
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has brought out Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 which have the provision for Rainwater Harvesting. As per MBBL-2016 it is mandatory to have rainwater harvesting provision for all plots with more than 100 sq.mtr area. As per MBBL-2016, rainwater harvesting has been made mandatory for all the public and commercial buildings. These model building bye-laws have been shared with the States for adoption. 32 States/UTs have adopted rainwater harvesting feature of MBBL-2016.

Betting/fixing in major sports

1433. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some instances of betting/fixing in major sports events have come to the notice of Government in the recent past;