

Drinking water crisis in the country

2744. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is suffering from the worst ever water crisis in its history, as per a report published by National Institute for Transformation;
- (b) if so, short term and long term policies adopted by Government to overcome this crisis;
- (c) whether around 20,000 Indians die every year, due to lack of safe drinking water;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on water scarcity in the country, in the context of rising population and available water supply and its demand in future, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether water scarcity has made any impact on GDP of the country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI): (a) and (b) As per a report by National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog on 'Composite Water Management Index' 60 crore population of India face high to extreme water stress. As per information furnished by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR), various steps taken by the Government to overcome the water crisis in long term are as under:

- The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD and GR 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 Policy has been forwarded to all States/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.
- The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its 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 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/Rainwater harvesting structures in urban and rural areas. The Master Plan is available in public domain and has also been circulated to the State Governments for implementation.
- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of 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 where ground water withdrawal through new abstraction structures is not permitted, except for drinking and domestic uses. CGWA has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States as well as Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. It also grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects with mandatory conditions aimed at conservation, augmentation and efficient use of ground water.
- Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 circulated by Ministry of Urban Development include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting. As per these, water harvesting through storing of water runoff including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 sq. m and above will be mandatory. Barring the States /UT of Manipur, Sikkim, Mizoram and Lakshadweep, all the States /UT have incorporated these provisions in their respective building bye laws. Building plans submitted to the local bodies shall indicate the system of storm water drainage along with points of collection of rainwater in surface reservoirs or in recharge wells. Further, all building having a minimum discharge of 10,000 litre and above per day shall have mandatory waste water recycling systems. The recycled water shall be used for horticultural purposes.

As far as this Ministry is concerned, through Centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), technical and financial assistance are provided to States for providing safe drinking water in rural areas. The Ministry has restructured the NRDWP to make it more competitive, result oriented and outcome based to reduce the slippages and inefficiencies in the rural drinking water supply.

(c) As per the report titled "Composite Water Management Index" published by NITI Aayog referred to estimates of the Global Health Observatory Data Repository of World Health Organization which states that nearly 2 lakh people die every year due to inadequate/unsafe water in India.

(d) As per information furnished by MoWR, RD & GR, the average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors and is generally constant. The average annual water potential in the country has been assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). Due to topographical and other factors, the utilizable water availability is limited to 1137 BCM per annum, comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable ground water. Further, National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) have mentioned in their report that taking into account the water availability and the requirements in India, which has been assessed as 843 BCM in the year 2025 and 1180 BCM in 2050, there is no need to take an alarmist view.

However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1816 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.

Central Government has formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins to improve availability of water.

(e) This Ministry does not maintain any data regarding impact of water scarcity on GDP of the country.

IEC for behavioural change under SBM

2745. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation on Information Education and Communication (IEC) for behavioural change under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), year-wise;