

Survey of rivulets

†1584. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted any survey for rivulets in Kaimoor, Nawada, Aurangabad, Gaya and Bhagalpur districts;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by Government; and

(c) if not, the proposed future action plan of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources including conducting any survey of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. The Minor Water Resources Department (MWRD), Government of Bihar, has informed that it has not conducted any survey for rivulets in Kaimoor, Nawada, Aurangabad, Gaya and Bhagalpur districts. Minor Water Resources Department (MWRD) of Government of Bihar has further informed that it may investigate these rivulets for constructing small check dams for water harvesting upto year 2021-22.

Water harvesting in Bihar

†1585. SHRI GOPAL NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are plenty of small rivulets sourcing from hills in Kaimoor, Nawada, Aurangabad, Gaya and Bhagalpur districts of Bihar;

(b) if so, whether there is any arrangements for water harvesting; and

(c) if not, whether Government is contemplating to take effective steps in this regard and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from Government of Bihar, there are some small rivulets sourcing from hills of Kaimur, Nawada, Aurangabad and Gaya districts.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources to ensure sustainability and availability are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. As per information received from Government of Bihar, Minor Water Resources Department (MWRD) of Government of Bihar (GoB) has constructed Ahar systems which receive water from these rivulets. These Ahar systems are used for irrigation as well as recharge of groundwater.

Improving groundwater quality

1586. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that groundwater in various parts of the country has become poisonous;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to improve groundwater quality in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated, sanctioned and utilized therefor and the details of progress made therein, State-wise and region-wise during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR) monitors groundwater quality periodically to ascertain the magnitude and extent of different contaminants in groundwater. The groundwater quality data is shared with concerned State Governments for taking necessary remedial measures. States-wise details of affected districts with groundwater contamination by different chemical constituents are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Water being a State subject, initiatives for water management including its improvement in quality is primarily States' responsibility.

For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural populations, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them with technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).