

tuted 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. CGWA grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to various users through guidelines which are modified from time to time.

Central Ground Water Authority has also appointed the District Magistrate / District Collector of each Revenue District and Regional Directors of CGWB as Authorized Officers, who have been given the power to enforce compliance of NOC conditions.

Water being a State subject, efforts to conserve and manage ground water is primarily States' responsibility. However, other steps taken by the Central Government to control ground water depletion are at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_controlwater_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

Tackling drought conditions

1022. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very extreme drought condition prevails in the country and about 42 per cent of the country is abnormally dry; and

(b) if so, the details of measures being taken to meet the situation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country and issues weekly bulletin on every Thursday. As per the bulletin dated 20.06.2019, live storage available in 91 reservoirs is 27.265 billion cubic meter (BCM), which is 17% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs. The live storage available in these reservoirs is 92% of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and 93% of live storage of average of last ten years.

As per second India Meteorological Department (IMD) Long Range Forecast, released on 31.05.2019, rainfall over the country as a whole for the 2019 South-West Monsoon Season (June to September) is likely to be NORMAL (96% to 104% of the Long Period Average). As per IMD, rainfall in India during 01.06.2019 to 26.06.2019 is recorded as 86.3 mm which is 36% below the normal rainfall.

To meet any exigency in the event of an aberrant monsoon, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has issued advisory to all States/UTs on 25th April, 2019, for reviewing the States' preparedness in managing any weather related contingency for mitigating the adverse impacts of an aberrant monsoon.

Progress of monsoon and area coverage etc. is monitored weekly through Weather Watch Group meetings as well as video conferencing, advising the States to take steps according to the prevailing situation. District Agriculture Contingency Plans for 648 districts have been prepared by Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA) to mitigate the situation in drought affected areas.

Piped water to all cities

1023. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog has warned that 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020 and 70 per cent of water bodies are contaminated, if so, the details thereof;

(b) details of the steps taken by Government and the steps it intends to take to deal with this national crisis; and

(c) status of the „Piped Water for all by 2024% project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has published „Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)% in June 2018. The report has indicated that by 2020, 21 major cities are expected to reach zero groundwater levels, affecting access for 100 million people. The report also stated that 70 % of water supply is contaminated.

(b) The details of steps taken are

- In order to sustain the drinking water sources, artificial recharge of groundwater and rain water harvesting are being implemented under various Schemes of Government of India *i.e.* Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) Programme etc.
- The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been created in Government of India, with an aim of integrated water resources management under one umbrella so that the issues relating to water are dealt with in a holistic manner.
- An advisory has been issued by this Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation on 20th May 2019 to States on water conservation and to meet the drinking water requirements of rural areas on priority, during scarcity.