

Financial and technical assistance to States for potable water

1015. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the availability of potable water has been adversely affected due to the decline in groundwater level in certain parts of the country including rural areas during the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by Government to provide financial and technical assistance to the State Governments for the purpose; and
- (d) the details of the achievements made in this regard as a result of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Ground water contributes to 85% of rural drinking water needs and approximately 50% of the urban water needs. Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining because of continuous withdrawal due to reasons such as increased demand of fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization and urbanization etc. Analysis of data of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) indicates decline in ground water level in about 52% of the wells monitored. Dynamic ground water resources of the country are being periodically assessed jointly by CGWB and State Governments. As per latest assessment (2013), out of the total 6584 assessment units (Block/Taluks/ Mandals/ watersheds/ Firkas) in the Country, 1034 units in 17 States/UTs 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 have been categorized as 'Critical', 681 units as 'Semi-Critical' and 4520 units as 'Safe'. Categorization of Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas in India (2013) are given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The rural drinking water supply is a State subject. It is the State Governments which plan, design, approve, execute and operate and maintain the schemes for providing safe drinking water to rural population. However, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation provides technical and financial assistance to States under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for improving the coverage of safe drinking water in rural areas. The details of funds released to various States/UTs under National Rural Drinking Water Programme during the last five years is as below:

Financial Year	Fund Released (in ₹ Crores)
2014-15	9007.64
2015-16	4206.99
2016-17	5875.16
2017-18	6968.15
2018-19	5466.24

Other steps taken by the Central Government to control ground water depletion in the country are at the following URL: http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

DPR on inter-linking of rivers

†1016. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed its Detailed Project Report (DPR) on interlinking of Par Tapi Narmada link and Damanganga Pijal rivers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) progress of the work and action taken by Government on DPR till date;

(c) the decision taken on scope, water distribution, cost usage of water and water management in the DPR; and

(d) the details of other works yet to be done after DPR, by which the said work can be completed and its benefits can be made accessible to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Damanganga-Pinjal link project was completed by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in March, 2014 and sent to Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Advisory Committee of Ministry of WR, RD&GR (now Ministry of Jal Shakti) in its meeting held on 8.7.2016 has accorded techno-economic clearance subject to submission of forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) for diversion of 1673.78 ha forest land and clearance for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R & R) plan of tribal population from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). The DPR of the link project has been submitted for Forest Land Diversion Clearance in MoEF and CC and for R&R plan of tribal population in MoTA.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.