

(b) the number of villages in the districts of Gujarat where piped potable water has been made available till date; and

(c) whether any assessment has been made to ensure that all the people of these districts are getting 40 litres of potable water, if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Water is a State subject. For improving the coverage of safe drinking water to rural population, this department under centrally sponsored scheme National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) provides financial and technical assistance to States for improving coverage of drinking water supply. As reported by State of Gujarat, a total of 18424 Piped Water Supply (PWS) schemes were completed upto 2017 to provide piped potable water in rural areas. 16,995 villages have been made available piped potable water till date.

(c) As reported by State of Gujarat, every year departmental assessment is carried out regarding service level and accordingly data is entered in Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of NRDWP. As per data reported by the State in IMIS, all habitations are covered with 40 litres per capita per day (Ipcd) in year 2018-19.

Shortage of water for farming

3253. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL : Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any new policy to make water available to the farmers of the country, particularly for the State of Madhya Pradesh, keeping in view the acute shortage of water in many parts of the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country needs to make realignment of cropping patterns to water availability; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) As mentioned in the National Water Policy 2012, safe water for drinking and sanitation should be considered as pre-emptive needs, followed by high priority allocation for other basic domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving

food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum ecosystem needs. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should be allocated in a manner to promote its conservation and efficient use. The States/UTs may draft/revise their State Water Policies in accordance with this policy keeping in mind the basic concerns, principles and unified national perspective. Further, water being a State subject, the State Governments allocate water for different purposes as per their priorities and requirements.

(b) and (c) As mentioned in the National Water Policy 2012, water saving in irrigation use is of paramount importance. Methods like aligning cropping pattern with natural resource endowments, micro irrigation (drip, sprinkler, etc.), evaporation-transpiration reduction, etc., should be encouraged and incentivized.

Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has been emphasizing promotion of suitable cropping systems under Crop Diversification Programme (CDP) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and also supplements the efforts of the States to diversify agricultural / horticultural crops. The farmers are encouraged to use available resources like land and water judiciously. The new technologies on cropping pattern are demonstrated at the farmers, fields through State Department of Agriculture/ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)/ Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc.

Depletion of ground water level

3254. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR : Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India will run out of ground water in the next ten years and around 40 per cent of India will not get access to drinking water by 2030; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the ground water level across the country including Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) 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, less amount of recharge due to deficient rainfall etc.