

various chemical constituents in excess beyond permissible limits (as per BIS) has been observed in isolated pockets in various States/UTs. Commonly observed contaminants such as Arsenic, Fluoride and Iron are geogenic, whereas contaminants such as nitrates, phosphates, heavy metals etc. owe their origin to various human activities including domestic sewage, agricultural practices and industrial effluents.

(b) Water being State subject, initiatives on water management including taking corrective action related to ground water quality in the country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the important measures taken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in this regard are as under:

- CPCB in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) is implementing the provisions of The Water (Prevention & Control) Act, 1974 & The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control of aquatic resources from pollution.
- Establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) for cluster of Small Scale Industries.
- With respect to industrial effluents, consent management for compliance of standards is being enforced by SPCBs/PCCs to improve the water quality of the rivers.

Declining water levels

2327. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that if water levels continue to decline and the population continues to increase, a large part of India's population will be affected;

(b) whether it is a fact that India's per capita water availability has come down drastically; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken for saving water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing 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 further reduce to 1486 cubic meters in the year 2021.

(c) Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes. Central Government has taken various steps for conservation of water.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a campaign for water conservation and water security, in 256 water stressed districts of the country.

Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) which mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through precision irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System) and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources. It also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to supplement micro irrigation.

Central Ground Water Board is implementing innovative schemes for Aquifer Rejuvenation under 'Ground Water Management and Regulation' scheme in select over exploited blocks of the aspirational districts on pilot basis.

Other initiatives/measures taken by Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting/conservation are available at the URL: http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

Depletion of water tables

2328. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that according to the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report released by the NITI Aayog in 2018-2021, major cities viz. Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and others are racing towards zero groundwater levels by 2020;