

Illegal encroachment in ponds

†893. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that ponds have a significant role in increasing groundwater table but most of the ponds have been illegally encroached upon, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(b) whether Government proposes any plan to free ponds from illegal encroachments, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Seepage from ponds under favourable hydrogeological condition may recharge the ground water, thereby raising the ground water table.

Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

The matter related to encroachment of water bodies comes under the purview of the concerned State Governments. However, considering the importance of water bodies for socio economic development, Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR) *vide* letter dated 26.02.2016 requested State Governments to take necessary steps for keeping all the water bodies encroachment free. Further, Secretary (DoWR, RD & GR) *vide* letter dated 07.11.2016 requested the State Governments to take appropriate action in respect of inclusion of water bodies in land records, inclusion of water bodies as integral part of town planning process, strict action for the encroachers, etc.

'Draft guidelines for Conservation and Protection of Water Bodies' have also been circulated to the Central Ministries and States/UTs.

Promotion of rain water harvesting

894. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to promote rain water harvesting throughout the country in a big ways, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any High Power Committee has been formulated to prepare Statespecific plan for water harvesting, examine storage capacity of rain water harvesting in States and UTs, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and water harvesting in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the important measures taken by the central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are at the following URL: http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf.

Further, a number of States have done notable work in the field of water conservation/harvesting. Of these, mention can be made of 'Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan' in Rajasthan, 'Jalyukt Shibir' in Maharashtra, 'Sujalam Sufalam Abhiyan' in Gujarat, 'Mission Kakatiya' in Telangana, Neeru Chettu in Andhra Pradesh, Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar among others.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan, a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. In this regard, teams of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti were deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable interventions.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water - 2013" to augment the ground water resources. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in urban and rural areas to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. Master Plan has been circulated to the State/UT Governments for its implementation and also placed in public domain at the following URL <http://cgwb.gov.in/documents/MasterPlan-2013.pdf>.

Sustainable groundwater sources

895. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of experts called for global action on depleting ground water levels to ensure global groundwater sustainability;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto;