GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2967
ANSWERED ON 22.03.2021

WATER SCARCITY

2967 SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing water scarcity due to neglect of storage of water resources and conservation in several region of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has any proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof particularly Tamil Nadu State in this regard, State-wise?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (c) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. However, 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. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability of many regions of the country is much below the national average and may result in water stress / scarce conditions.

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 Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring live storage status of 130 reservoirs of the country on weekly basis and is issuing weekly bulletin on every Thursday which is shared with the Water Resources Departments of concerned states and also uploaded on the CWC website. Whenever the percentage of departure of current storage of all reservoirs under CWC monitoring in a state falls below 80% of Normal (average storage of last ten years), advisory is issued to the State Government for judicious use of available water.

Out of 130 reservoirs, which CWC monitors, there are 6 reservoirs namely, Mettur (Stanley), Lower Bhawani Sagar, Aliyar, Sholayar, Parambikulam, and Vaigai in the state of Tamil Nadu. Cumulative live storage capacity at FRL of these 6 reservoirs is 4.23 BCM. As per bulletin issued on 11.03.2021, the available live storage in these 6 reservoirs is 3.02 BCM cumulatively which is 71% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

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Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019, 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 including 27 districts in Tamil Nadu.

Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020 has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. In Tamil Nadu, about 87 thousand rainwater harvesting and recharge structures to harness 960 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of surplus water.

CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans with community participation.

Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has instituted National Water Awards to incentivize good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.

A joint advisory of Department of Rural Development, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Department of Land Resources and Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation has been issued on 24.04.2020 to all States/UTs including Tamil Nadu to emphasize efforts in the area of water conservation and water management in the country. The activities include augmentation of existing water sources(s), ground water recharge, rainwater harvesting and grey water management and recharge.

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