

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2466
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

USE OF GROUNDWATER

2466 # SHRI NARESH BANSAL

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes any scheme to regulate the use of groundwater to increase agricultural production, ensure the welfare of the farmers, protect the interests of farmers and common people who are dependent on groundwater; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) This Department is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a Rs.6,000 crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of water resources with community participation. Atal Jal is being implemented in 81 water stressed districts and 8,774 Gram Panchayats of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh on a pilot basis. The scheme includes activities like preparation of Water Security Plan at Gram Panchayat level in participatory mode by involving communities to use available groundwater and surface water in an efficient manner for all purposes including agriculture sector, which is likely to immensely help the farmers with increased production, sustainable livelihood etc apart from reducing the dependence on groundwater resources.

Further, though Water is a State subject a number of policy initiatives/schemes have been taken up by the Central Government for conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water in the country in an efficient manner in the interest of farmers and other common people. Some of the important initiatives in this regard is given at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2466 ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 20.12.2021 REGARDING “USE OF GROUND WATER”.

Some of the initiatives by Central government for conjunctive use of Groundwater and surface water in an efficient manner

National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by this Department, which advocates for a number of policy interventions for sustainable management of water resources including efficient use of groundwater and surface water in the country including in agriculture sector.

In addition, this Department has issued Guidelines with pan-India applicability for regulation and control of groundwater extraction in the country on 24.09.2020. Water being a State subject, the guidelines advocate for a participatory approach for sustainable ground water management in agriculture sector including working towards crop rotation, diversification & other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with component Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. Major and Medium Irrigation Projects through surface water sources at various places have been taken up under this scheme.

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) which is operational from 2015-16. The PMKSY-PDMC mainly focuses on water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation system) to reduce the extraction of groundwater.

In addition, to harvest the rain fall effectively on mission mode, Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in 2019, to improve water availability by harvesting the rainfall effectively in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India. Further, “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) have been taken up during 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021 in the country. The campaign was launched by the Hon’ble Prime Minister on 22 March 2021.

Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in consultation with States/UTs, to harvest the rainfall in the country in a scientific manner, which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country.

Further, Central Government has taken a number of initiatives for improving the groundwater resources including rain water harvesting in the country which can be seen at URL:http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf.