

Construction of wall along Hansi-Butana Canal

924. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a representation from the State Government of Punjab for its intervention to stop the ongoing construction of concrete wall along the left bank of the Hansi-Butana Canal by the Haryana Government;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Central Government in the matter to advise the State Government to desist from constructing the wall to block the natural flow of water doing floods, blatantly ignoring the warning of technical experts and engineers that such a reckless step can cause major devastation in various districts of Punjab like Sangrur, Patiala and Mansa; and

(c) the outcome thereof and the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) In a letter dated 03.07.2011 from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab addressed to Hon'ble Prime Minister, it is mentioned that Haryana intends providing a concrete toe wall/lining on the outer slope of the left embankment of the Hansi-Butana canal in a length of about 3.5 km, which will hinder the flow of flood water leading to a submergence of hundreds of villages in Punjab. He sought senior Central Government officials to ascertain the ground situation and also immediate intervention to impress upon the Government of Haryana to stop its unilateral action of going ahead with the proposed toe wall and other measures which can cause tragedy of epic proportion in the State of Punjab. State of Punjab has also taken up the matter the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is sub-judice.

Ground water availability

925. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of availability of ground water, as on date;

(b) the details of withdrawal of ground water for irrigational, domestic and industrial purposes;

(c) the present status of ground water level; and

(d) the steps/measures taken by Government to improve the level of ground water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per last assessment of ground water resources as on year 2004 carried out jointly

by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water organizations, the total Annual Replenishable Ground Water Resources of the country have been estimated as 433 Billion Cubic Metres (bcm).

(b) Ground water withdrawal as on 2004 for all uses is estimated as 231 bcm per year, out of which withdrawal for irrigation is 213 bcm and that for domestic and industrial purposes together is 18 bcm.

(c) The water level data collected during May, 2011 has shown that water levels in majority of observation wells range from 2 to 20 metres below ground level. A few locations in the States/UTs of Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have registered water levels more than 20 meters below ground level. The State-wise details of depth to water level as measured during May, 2011 are given in Annexure, [See Appendix 223 Annexure No. 9]

(d) 'Water' is a state subject, hence it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to take necessary measures to improve ground water levels. However, Ministry of Water Resources has taken following steps for improvement of the level of ground water:

- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation.
- Implementation of Demonstrative Projects on Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water with an outlay of Rs. 100 Cr. during Eleventh Plan in the country.
- States have been advised for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.
- Circulation of a Master Plan for artificial recharge of ground water to the States/UTs.
- Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water for popularizing concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders as well as water managers.
- Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and artificial recharge through people's participation.

- Issuance of directions by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to all the Chief Secretaries of States having Over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting.
- Issuing of directions by CGWA *vide* public notice to all the Residential Group Housing Societies/Institutions/Schools/Hotels/Industrial Establishments falling in the over-exploited and critical areas (Except in the water logged areas) in the country to adopt Roof Top Rain Water harvesting systems in their premises.
- Issuing of directions by CGWA to Heads of Central Road Research Institute, National Highway Authority of India, Central Public Works Department, Railway Board, Sports Authority, Airports Authority of India, Civil Aviation, Youth Affairs and Sports to implement the Scheme of Ground Water Recharge along all National/State Highways and other roads, railway tracks and other establishments of Railways, all stadia and airports.
- Notification of 43 areas by Central Ground Water Authority for regulation of ground water development.

Availability of water in Okhla Barrage

†926. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of water that was available in Okhla Barrage of Yamuna river from July to September, 2010;
- (b) the share of Rajasthan from July to September, 2010 out of the same; and
- (c) whether Rajasthan was provided with its share of water and if not, the reasons therefor, the person accountable for it and the action taken by Government thereon and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) has informed that as per its records, the total quantum of water that was available in Okhla Barrage of Yamuna River from July to September 2010 was 11.11 Billion Cubic Metre.

(b) As informed by UYRB, Rajasthan's share of Yamuna water from Okhla Barrage from July to September 2010 works out to 46.886 Million Cubic Metre.

(c) As per UYRB, Rajasthan did not get its full share of water as allocated from Okhla Barrage because of en route losses and unauthorized lifting of water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.