GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,

 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**RAJYA SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*223**

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2019

**Water crisis**

\*223. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken in response to NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index, 2018, which states that 21 major cities of India will reach zero ground water level by 2020;

(b) the results of such steps; and

(c) plans for the future to tackle this water crisis in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(shri gajendra singh SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. \*223 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 09.12.2019 REGARDING “WATER CRISIS” ASKED BY SHRI SANJAY SINGH, M.P.**

(a) to (c) NITI Aayog, in its report titled “Composite Water Management Index” published in June 2018, has mentioned that 21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020. This is based on the estimates of annual groundwater replenishment and its extraction. However, it does not take into account the groundwater availability in the deeper aquifers.

Practices for efficient and sustainable management of water resources such as conjunctive use of surface water and ground water resources, participatory ground water practices, increasing water use efficiency amongst others need to be promoted on a large scale by involving all the stake-holders to deal with future water demand challenges.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is 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

Water being a State subject, efforts to initiate suitable demand side and supply side interventions including conservation and management of water resources is primarily States’ responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government in this regard are at the following URL: <http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf>.

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