

Speech of His Excellency , The Governor of Jharkhand, Shri M.O.H. Farook on the occasion of inauguration of the Workshop on “ Exploration ,Development and Management of Ground Water in Hard Rocks-Special Reference to Jharkhand State”.

Hon'ble Minister Drinking Water & Sanitation and Water Resource Deptts. Shri C.P.Chaudhary, Shri B.M.Jha, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, Shri Sudhir Prasad, Shri R.S.Poddar, all Secretaries to Govt. of Jharkhand, other officials media representatives, ladies & gentlemen.

It is a matter of immense pleasure that a Regional Workshop on Exploration, Development and Management of Ground Water in hard rocks, with special reference to Jharkhand has been organized by Central Ground Water Board, Govt. of India, in partnership with Ground Water Directorate, Govt. of Jharkhand and UNICEF. This workshop has become even more relevant in the context of unprecedented climatic changes on global scale during the past one decade, resulting from green house effect, having serious implications on the natural eco system & socio - economic system. Between 1995 –2006, the temperature has grown to such level, which has broken all the past record since, 1850 AD. The alarming depletion of glaciers resulting out of global warming, threatens to take away summer time source of river water, drinking water and hydro - electric power. A rise in earth's mean temperature, could significantly modify the quantity, and pattern of rainfall which may result in severe climatic adverse effects such as flood, famine, heat rise, cyclone etc.

India is likely to be severely effected by these climatic changes and hence, it has to take immediate steps in water sector to preserve sinking fresh water resources particularly with respect to its access to the poorest of the poor in the country. It is imperative, thereafter, that integrated water resources management be adopted sincerely at all levels in different sectors, by all stakeholders including Government, Industries and Agriculture.

The phenomenal growth in population on one hand, and development of advanced technology in drilling and pumping on the other, has resulted in extraordinary growth in ground water exploitation, for drinking purposes, for irrigation as well as for industrial purposes. Unfortunately, however, no commensurate efforts have been made for artificially recharging the ground water domain by adopting different mechanisms.

The state of Jharkhand being a part of the Great Indian Peninsula is not rich in terms of availability of both surface and ground water resources, as it is in terms of mineral resources. Although, significant effort have been made to harness surface water resources, so far, no concrete measures have been taken, by all concerned to replenish the dwindling ground water resources. This, however, needs to change because ground water plays a major role in the state, not only to quench the thirst of the people, but also to sustain both agriculture and industries in Jharkhand.

The Ground Water scenario in Jharkhand is even more gloomy, because of the fact, that in spite of relatively healthy annual rainfall of about 1200-1400 mm, more than 85% of the rainfall goes waste, as surface run off, due to its undulating topography. The ground water table in Jharkhand, I am told by experts, is showing downward trend in general, and is depleting at an alarmingly high rate in certain urban areas of Jharkhand.

It appears to me that the only course left in Jharkhand to avert impending ground water crises, is to go in for massive Rain Water Harvesting by all. I am told that both the Central Govt. and the State Govt. are seized of the situation and are making efforts not only to create rain water harvesting facilities by its own efforts, but also, to sensitize the people of Jharkhand about the urgent need to adopt Rain Water Harvesting practices. Yet, I feel that a lot needs to be done, in order to cope up with the impending ground water crises. I reiterate that industries and others who are massive exploiters of ground water, have a special role to play in this regard.

I hope, the galaxy of experts, in the field of rain water harvesting & related fields present in this workshop will deliberate intensely for two days and come up with recommendations, which will be go a long way in alleviating the ground water crises in Jharkhand.

I wish this workshop all success.

Thank you.