

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:55  
ANSWERED ON:01.12.1999  
UNDERGROUND WATER  
RAJO SINGH;RAMDAS ATHAWALE

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether many States, particularly Bihar and Maharashtra are facing scarcity of drinking water due to depletion of ground water table in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to extend financial and technical assistance to the State Governments to cope up with the situation ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.55 FOR 01.12.1999  
S/SHRI RAJO SINGH AND RAMDAS ATHAWALE

(a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels for the year 1980 to 1999 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 4 metres in some States affecting the availability of drinking water. The districts showing fall of more than 4 metres in ground water levels in various States is shown in the enclosed statement. According to the information received from Government of Bihar, the decline in ground water levels has not affected the availability of drinking water.

(b) The Government have taken the following steps to provide technical and financial assistance to State Governments to cope up with the situation :-

i. A manual on artificial recharge of ground water has been prepared and circulated to all the State Governments and Union Territories including Maharashtra and Bihar for their guidance in formulating ground water recharging schemes.

ii. A Model Bill has been prepared and circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the State Governments/Union Territories to regulate and control the development of ground water.

iii. Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority under the Environmental (Protection) Act,1986 to regulate, control and manage ground water development.

iv. Providing assistance, financial and technical, for safe drinking water facilities under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Department of Drinking Water Supply.

v. Providing assistance, financial and technical, for providing drinking water facilities in urban areas under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Urban Development.

vi. The Central Ground Water Board in association with the State Governments has undertaken a Central Sector Scheme at a cost of Rs.25.00 crore for artificial recharge of ground water.

vii. In-situ water conservation and recharge measures under implementation by Ministry of Agriculture include National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas(NWDPRA), Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers(FPR), Watershed Management in areas of Shifting Cultivation. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing watershed schemes under Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme. The watershed development programmes raise the ground water level.

Statement

Name of the State/District showing pockets with fall in ground water level Of more than 4 meters (1980 -99)

State

Districts

Andhra Pradesh Shrikakulam, Chittor

Maharashtra Akola, Nagpur, Jalgaon, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Sangli,  
Satara, Buldhana, Amravati

Punjab Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Sangrur,  
Faridkot, Fatehgarh

Haryana Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Mehandargarh, Jind

Uttar Pradesh Gonda, Farukhabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Fetehpur, Allahabad,  
Banda, Nainital.

Bihar East Singhbhum, Ranchi, Samastipur, Chapra, Dharbanga  
West Bengal Purlia, Midnapur  
Orissa Koraput, Mayurbhanj  
Rajasthan Nagaur, Bikaner, Jaipur

Madhya Pradesh Ujjain, Dewas, Shajahanpur, Dhar, Sagar, Bilaspur, Raipur,  
Surguja, Guna, Narsinghpur

Karnataka Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Bellari, Shimoga, Bangalore,  
Mysore, Gulbarga

Tamilnadu Salem, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Madurai, Tanjavour,  
Paddukottai, Kamrajar, Thirunaganar, North Kannada