

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
EXPLOITATION OF WATER RESOURCES
Abdullakutty Shri A.P.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

the steps taken by the Government to regulate unrestricted exploitation of water resources and to prevent misuse of ground water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to regulate unrestricted exploitation of water resources and to prevent misuse of ground water. The Central Government has constituted the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The CGWA has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources. Further, the CGWA has notified 32 over-exploited areas in the country for registration of ground water structures.

The Central Government has also initiated following measures to augment ground water resources:-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iii) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting (www.cgwbindia.com) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.