

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:939

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010

DARK ZONE AREA

Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified any dark zone area in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms adopted for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch any Centrally funded water scheme in such areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to lift ban from dark zone area in the interest of farmers; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, area-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited', 226 units as 'Critical' and 550 as 'Semi-critical'. Various assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country have been categorized based on the norms recommended by the Groundwater Estimation Committee (GEC) 1997 as per detailes given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) The Union Government has approved a scheme for "Ground Water Management & Regulation" during 11th Plan and that in turn has the provisions for supporting activities for groundwater exploration and recharge in different parts of the country including over- exploited areas. Government has also approved a scheme for promoting 'Artificial Recharge to ground water through dugwells' in seven hard rock States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh.

(e) to (f) The Central Ground Water Authority(CGWA) has notified 43 areas for regulation of ground water development. Further categorisation of over-exploited blocks is done by Authority from time to time.