

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:362

ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010

DECLINING GROUND WATER TABLE

Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Singh Shri Dhananjay

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Geophysical Institute, Hyderabad has conducted any study on the rapidly declining ground water table in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented any Programme to create awareness among the users for proper ground water utilization, exploitation and conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved as a result thereof; and
- (e) the other remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 362 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.04.2010 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING 'DECLINING GROUND WATER TABLE'

(a) & (b) The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad carried out the study in respect of an area of about 27 lakh sq. km including the mountainous regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Indus basin (Pakistan & India), Ganga basin (India & Nepal) and Ganga-Brahmaputra basin (India, Nepal & Bangladesh). The study aimed at estimation of ground water depletion in this area. The report based on the study published as "Dwindling Ground Water Resources in Northern India, from Satellite Gravity Observations" in the Geophysical Research Letters (Vol. 36), 2009 indicates that "the entire study area has lost groundwater at the rate of 54+9 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per year between April, 2002 and June, 2008.

(c) & (d) The Government has implemented the following measures aimed at creating awareness among the users for proper ground water utilization and conservation :-

For promoting awareness and education among the stake holders in ground water sector, awareness programmes are organised under the Central Plan schemes "Ground Water Management & Regulation" and Information Education and Communication (IEC) of Ministry of Water Resources;

Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices has been implemented during the year 2007-2010;

"Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwell" scheme for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States;

"Demonstrative Projects for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting";

Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation ;

A Web Enabled Ground Water Information System (WEGWIS) for dissemination of ground water related information to all stake holders including users.

(e) The other remedial steps taken by the Government include: circulation of a Model Bill to all the States /Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control of development and management of ground water, issue of directions by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to States having 'over-exploited' areas for taking necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and to also include provision for making construction of roof top rain water

harvesting structures mandatory under the building bye-laws. The CGWA has also 'notified' 43 areas in 10 States/UTs for regulation of ground water development.