

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

DECREASING GROUND WATER LEVEL

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of fast decline in water levels in various parts of the country, leading to acute shortage of Water;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether areas/locations have been identified, which have witnessed such fast depletion of ground water;
- (d) whether Government proposes to levy user charges for conservation and optimal utilisation of water;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and other remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to maintain normal water level in the affected areas of States; and
- (f) the details of awareness and training programmes organized by Central Ground Water Authority to educate public and the results if any achieved in this regard so far?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country due to increasing extraction and less recharge of ground water. The CGWB has identified the areas affected by over-exploitation.

(d) & (e) There is no proposal before the Government to levy user charges for conservation and optimal utilisation of water. The measures taken by the Government include implementation of scheme for artificial recharge of ground water through dugwells, implementation of the schemes for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, implementation of scheme for demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, circulation of a Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate regulation of ground water development.

(f) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has organized 384 mass awareness and 299 training programmes on public awareness, water management, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.