

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:196

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER IN CITIES/URBAN AREAS

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Sinha Shri Yashwant

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the shortage of water/drinking water in the cities/urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, city-wise;
- (c) whether there is a decline in the ground water table in the country, particularly in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR);
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to check shortage and ensure adequate availability/supply of water/drinking water in cities/urban areas in the country, particularly in Delhi and NCR?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

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

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 196 FOR 6.8.2010 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF DRINKING WATER IN CITIES/URBAN AREAS

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): City wise details of assessment of water supply as per pilot project on Benchmarking undertaken by Ministry of Urban Development in 2009 is enclosed at Annexure-1. According to the 58th round of National Sample Survey (2003), 73.6% of urban households have access to tap water, 19.6% households have access to tubewell and hand pump and 5.1% have access to well.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): As per latest assessment, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 839 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' i.e. the annual ground water extraction exceeds the net annual ground water availability and significant decline in long term ground water level trend has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both. According to data provided by the National Capital Region Planning Board, water table in Delhi is dipping by 2 meters a year. The reasons for decline in ground water levels are increasing demand of ground water for agriculture, industrial and drinking purposes, change in cropping pattern and growing of paddy and cash crops that consume large quantities of water, Scanty rainfall in arid and semi- arid regions, large ground water extraction during drought when all other sources shrink, flat rate/ free electricity for extracting ground water in certain states and rapid pace of urbanisation resulting in reduced natural recharge to aquifers.

(e) : Remedial measures that have been undertaken by Government include circulation of 'Model Bill' for regulation and control of ground water development, notification of 43 areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management by Central Ground Water Authority, issue of directions regarding artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting, implementation of demonstration projects, scheme for 'Artificial recharge to ground water through Dug wells', organization of mass awareness programmes, circulation of Model Building Bye-laws to all the State Govts which include measures for rain water harvesting and reuse & recycle of waste water in urban areas etc. In Delhi rain water harvesting has been made mandatory in all new buildings on plots of 100 sq. mtr. and above with effect from July,2001.