

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3740  
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2010  
DECLINE IN WATER LEVEL  
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the water table in various agricultural producing States is depleting at an alarming rate;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the actual cost of electricity supplied free of cost in these areas is more than the income of the farmers; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure optimum use of water and electricity for agricultural production in these areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Some pockets in the States/Union Territories of Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have registered decline in ground water level by more than 4 meters during the last 20 years. The state-wise details of annual availability of ground water and corresponding draft are given at Annexure-I.

(c): The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is regulating withdrawal of ground water in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas. The CGWA has issued guidelines for withdrawal of ground water and have also 'notified' 43 areas for regulation of ground water development and delegated regulatory powers to district level authorities for grant of permission for extraction of ground water for drinking and domestic use in these areas. Violations of norms in notified areas are referred to the Authorized officers for taking action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A scheme for artificial recharge of ground water is also being implemented to improve recharge.

(d) & (e): Ministry of Agriculture does not maintain data in this regard. However, to ensure optimum use water and energy, technologies like micro irrigation, in situ moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, System of Rice Intensification, Broad bed and furrow irrigation, land leveling, zero tillage, precision farming etc. are promoted through various programmes of Ministry of Agriculture.