

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1807

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010

GROUND WATER LEVEL IN RAIN DEFICIT AREAS

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

- (a) whether the unfavourable rains during this Monsoon in several parts of the country has led to steep decline of the ground water level in Bundelkhand, Vidharba, Rayalseema, Rajasthan and other rain deficient regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the extent of fall in the ground water level in these regions compared to the corresponding period last year;
- (c) whether several schemes initiated for artificial re-charge of ground water level have not brought the desired results;
- (d) if so, whether Government proposes to review its schemes to focus on maintaining the ground water level in rain deficient areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. An analysis of ground water level data of May, 2010 when compared to May, 2009 indicates that about 58.6% of the wells have registered decline in ground water levels while remaining 41.4% of the wells have registered rise in ground water levels. Majority of wells showing decline have registered decline in the range of 0 to 2 metres. State wise details are given in Annexure-I.

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Water Resources has implemented pilot projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge during the VIII, IX and X Plan periods. Impact assessment studies of these projects had indicated rise in water levels and improved sustainability of dug wells/ tubewells on local scale. Based on the impact assessment studies of these projects, artificial recharge structures on a large scale in cluster mode by the State Governments are suggested. Accordingly, during XI Plan, Government of India has sanctioned schemes namely "Ground Water Management & Regulation" for Demonstrative Projects on Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water, "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" and "Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies" in cluster approach. The outlays under the schemes are Rs. 100 crore, Rs. 1798.71 crore and Rs. 2750 crore respectively. Priority is accorded to drought prone areas under these schemes.