

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:112  
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010  
IRRIGATED LAND  
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

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

- (a) the total area of land in hectares irrigated by ground water in the country at present;
- (b) whether many States are losing ground water as the water table has dropped alarmingly; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): As per the available estimate 37.79 million hectares of land is irrigated by ground water in the country.

(b): Indiscriminate exploitation of ground water for various purposes has led to decline in ground water levels in certain high demand areas. As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water organizations, as on 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas) in the country, 839 units in various States have been categorized as over-exploited, 226 as critical and 550 as semi-critical units. State-wise details of over-exploited, critical and semi-critical assessment units in the country are given at Annexure-I.

(c): The Central Ground Water Board/ Ministry of Water Resources are undertaking the following measures in the country to arrest the declining ground water levels and ensure availability of ground water on sustainable basis:-

# Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

# Issuing of directions by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to all the Chief Secretaries of States having Over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote/ adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting.

# Notification of 43 areas in 10 States/UTs for regulation of ground water development.

# Issuing of directions by CGWA vide public notice dated 08-10-2009 to all the Residential Group Housing Societies/Institutions/Schools/Hotels/Industrial Establishments falling in the over- exploited and critical areas (except in the water logged areas) in the country to adopt Roof Top Rain Water harvesting systems in their premises.

# Issuing of directions by CGWA to Heads of Central Road Research Institute, National Highway Authority of India, Central Public Works Department, Railway Board, Sports Authority, Airports Authority of India, Civil Aviation, Youth Affairs & Sports to implement the Scheme of Ground Water Recharge along all National/State Highways and other roads, rail tracks and other establishments of Railways, all stadia and airports.

# Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB in the country.

# Implementation of scheme on 'Artificial recharge to ground water through Dug wells' for augmenting the ground water resources in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh, which are predominantly underlain by hard rock formations.

# Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.

# States have been advised for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.

# Circulation of a Master Plan for artificial recharge of ground water to the States/UTs.

# Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water for popularizing concept of artificial recharge among

stakeholders as well as water managers.

# Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars & National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and artificial recharge through people`s participation.

Besides above the watershed programmes of Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development are also contributing towards ground water recharge through various runoff control and water harvesting measures.