

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4819

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010

GROUND WATER LEVEL

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the main findings of the Planning Commission's Expert Group on ground water level scenario in the country;
- (b) the areas of the country classified as critical, over-exploited, safe by the Planning Commission;
- (c) whether the report has also made analysis of irrigation pattern in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check the fast depleting ground water level in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Report of the Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission on Ground Water Management and Ownership, out of the 5723 assessment units in the country, 4078 are safe (71%), 550 are semi critical (10%), 226 are critical (4%) and 839 are overexploited

(15%). State wise details of over-exploited/critical/semi-critical assessment units as per ground water resource assessment carried out by Central Ground Water Board and States in 2004 are given in Annexure I. The report further states that Artificial recharge with community participation can augment ground water supply and delay the crisis.

(c) & (d) The report has referred to the 3rd census of Minor Irrigation (2005), according to which the ultimate irrigation potential from ground water source is 64.05 million hectares, as compared to 46 million hectares of land currently under groundwater irrigation, indicating further scope for developing groundwater in some areas (such as the eastern and north-eastern parts of the country). However in many states, the irrigation potential created has exceeded the ultimate potential.

(e) Various steps taken by the Government to check depletion of ground water are as under:

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

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 regulations.

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 States namely, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh.

Organization of mass awareness programmes on water management, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

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.

Notification of 43 areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management by Central Ground Water Authority.

Issuance 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.