

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:636

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

GROUND WATER CONSERVATION

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank report has recently indicated the need for urgent action by the Government about dwindling ground water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the specific regulatory mechanisms as indicated in the Government's notification to areas in U.P. about regulation of ground water development and management; and

(d) the details of the technological infrastructure for increasing productivity and profitability of agriculture as indicated in the Farmers Participatory Action Research Programmes (FPARPs)?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The World Bank report on 'Deep Wells and Prudence' released recently has indicated that the era of increasing reliance on ground water for both drinking water and irrigation purposes is approaching its limit as a number of aquifers have reached unsustainable levels of exploitation, and year 2004 nationwide assessment found that 29 % of the blocks are in the semi-critical, critical and over-exploited categories, with the situation of groundwater deteriorating rapidly. The indicated management interventions are as:

Demand side measures aimed at reducing consumptive groundwater use.

Conjunctive use through better alignment of surface and groundwater resources.

Groundwater recharge enhancement through construction of physical structures.

Effective regulatory measures.

Economic instruments like pricing measures including volumetric charges, taxes and user fees.

Community management of groundwater, which can involve any mix of instruments including regulation, property rights, and pricing.

(c) Central Ground Water Authority vide Public Notice dated 04.04.1999 has notified Municipal Corporation Area of Ghaziabad in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh, where no person can undertake any scheme/ project of ground water development & management without permission of the CGW Authority. Vide its Public Notice No. 5/2001 dated 27.03.2001, the CGW Authority has directed all residential societies/ institutions/ schools/ hotels/ industrial establishments located in the notified area of Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad to adopt roof top rain water harvesting system in their premises. Further vide Public Notice No. 25/2001 dated 17.1.2002, the CGW Authority has imposed ban on abstraction of ground water for sale & supply by private agencies/ persons from the notified area of Municipal Corporation of Ghaziabad in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The technologies adopted under the Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) for increasing productivity and profitability of agriculture are micro irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler), rain water harvesting structures (water storage tanks), soil moisture conservation (Mulching, dead furrow, opening of furrow, tied ridging etc.), System of Rice Intensification (SRI), Broadbed & Furrow irrigation, land leveling/configuration, precision farming irrigated crops /dry crops, multiple use of water, use of recycled water for irrigation, application of subsurface drips for irrigation, application of low cost drips for irrigation and application of treadle pump technology for irrigation in shallow water table areas.