

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1153  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011  
CONSERVATION OF WATER  
Balram Shri P.

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

- (a) whether community-based approach to groundwater resources management could save water resources while also raising farmers' income according to a study released by the World Bank recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The World Bank report titled "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Overexploitation in India" has inter-alia, suggested enabling and nurturing of community-based ground water management and need for investments in capacity building of the stakeholders. The report has a mention of Andhra Pradesh Farmer-Managed Groundwater Systems Project (APFAMGS) funded by Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, implemented by a nodal executing agency in seven drought prone districts of the State, which has resulted in reductions in water use and improvements in profitability of farmers.

(c) National Water Policy of India also envisages that management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach, by involving not only various governmental agencies but also other stakeholders such as water users' associations, municipalities and gram panchayats, in an effective and decisive manner in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources schemes.