

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2305
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2011
DECREASING WATER TABLE
Choudhry Smt. Shruti

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water table is decreasing rapidly in various States particularly Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government provides grants to the State Governments to promote schemes for water conservation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) An analysis of ground water level data collected from 7351 wells - located in different States/UTs of the country - monitored by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the period May, 2001- May, 2010 has indicated that about 53% of the observation wells have registered decline. During the same period, 79% of the 89 observation wells located in seven districts of the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh registered decline in ground water level. State wise details of water level fluctuations are given in Annexure I and district-wise details of water level fluctuations of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh are given in Annexure II. Ground water levels in various parts of the country have declined mainly due to increasing withdrawal of ground water for agriculture, industrial and domestic purposes, recurring drought in some parts of the country, rapid pace of urbanization, etc.

(c) to (d) 'Water' is a State Subject. Therefore, States are primarily responsible for promoting water conservation. However, Central Ground Water Board has implemented demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge under the central sector scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation during the XI Plan periods. State wise details of funds released under the scheme till December 2010 is given at Annexure-III.