

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1996

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011

WORLD BANK REPORT ON WATER RESOURCES

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has recently conducted a study in the water resources in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the availability of water may not be sufficient enough, due to excessive exploitation of ground water, as per the above mentioned report;
- (d) if so, the measures being undertaken by the Government to counter the challenge;
- (e) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance to projects in the water resources sector; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, name and location-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The World Bank had conducted a study called "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Over-exploitation in India", and published the same in 2010.

(c) The report points that groundwater faces a number of threats relating to quality and quantity due to pollution and over-exploitation, encouraged by poor public water supply service delivery, cheaper pumps, flexibility and timeliness of groundwater pumping, and electricity subsidies. This has led to almost a third of the groundwater blocks in the country being in semi-critical, critical, or over-exploited categories, with the situation deteriorating rapidly.

(d) The measures undertaken to promote implementation of rain water harvesting and to regulate ground water development, inter-alia, include:

Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation.

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 during 2007-2010.

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.

Issuing of directions by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to Chief Secretaries in 12 States and Administrations in 2 Union Territories having Over-exploited blocks to take necessary measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting.

Issuing of directions by CGWA 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, Airport Authority of India, Civil Aviation, Youth Affairs & Sports to implement the Scheme of Ground Water Recharge along all National/State Highways and other roads, railway tracks and other establishments of Railways, all stadiums and airports.

Notification of 43 areas by Central Ground Water Authority for regulation of ground water development.

Issuing of directions by CGWA to large and medium Industries using ground water in the over exploited and critical areas in the country (except in the water logged areas) to take up water conservation measures including recharge of ground water/rain water harvesting and adopt practices of treatment, recycle and reuse of waste water in their premises.

(e) & (f) Yes, the World Bank has provided assistance to projects in the water resources sector. The details are at Annexure-I.