

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:69
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
DEPLETION OF GROUND WATER LEVEL
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.;Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ground water level is decreasing considerably in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of over exploited/critical areas of the country, State-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for re-charging the ground water level in the country, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.69 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.07.2009 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING DEPLETION OF GROUND WATER LEVEL

(a) to (c) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), ground water level is decreasing in various parts of the country due to increasing extraction and less recharge of ground water.

As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out in the year 2004 by CGWB jointly with States, 839 out of 5723 Blocks/Talukas/Mandals are categorized as 'Over-exploited' in the country. The State-wise details of over-exploited and critical Blocks/Talukas/Mandals are given in Annexure.

(d) Government has taken following steps to help recharge ground water:-

- i. Government is implementing a scheme "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells" in 1180 Blocks/Talukas/Mandals in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- ii. Two schemes for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies, one with external assistance and another with domestic resources, are being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), which will help recharge of ground water.
- iii. A Central Sector Scheme namely, "Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented by MOWR.
- iv. MOWR has circulated a Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge.
- v. MOWR has advised the States/UTs to make rain water harvesting mandatory in "over-exploited" and "critical" areas and to promote other ground water conservation measures.