

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2313
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2011
AVAILABILITY AND UTILISATION OF GROUNDWATER
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the average availability and utilisation of groundwater in the country and the availability and utilization percentage of each State; and

(b) steps taken/being taken by the Government to augment the groundwater availability in States where scarcity of groundwater exists?

Answer

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

(a) As per the last assessment carried out jointly by the State Ground Water Organizations and Central Ground Water Board in the year 2004, the net annual ground water availability is estimated as 399.25 bcm and the annual ground water draft is 230.62 bcm. The stage of ground water development in the country is 58%. The state-wise details of availability and utilization of ground water resources are given in Annexure.

(b) Water being a state subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/ UT Administrations to take various steps for augmenting the ground water availability in their respective States/UTs. However, the Union Government has taken following steps to augment the ground water resources:

During XI Plan, artificial recharge projects have been taken up under the ongoing Central Sector Scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation in priority areas viz. over-exploited and critical assessment units, urban areas etc. for replication by the State Governments under similar hydrogeological environments. A provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the purpose.

A concept report titled 'Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water' has been prepared, which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/ UTs.

Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development, which provides for making roof top rain water harvesting mandatory. So far as 11 States/Union Territories namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation.

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.

Direction have been issued by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to Chief Secretaries in 12 States and Administrators in 2 Union Territories having Over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote/ adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ rain water harvesting.

Directions have been issued to Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all the States/ Union Territories and Ministry of Urban Development to take necessary action to adopt rain water harvesting/ artificial recharge on all the Government buildings.

Directions have been issued 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.

Directions have been issued for Implementation of ground water recharge measures along all National Highways, State Highways and other major roads by CRRI, National Highways Authority of India, CPWD, State PWDs; along rail tracks by Indian Railways; in the Stadia by Sports Authority of India, BCCI, Departments of sports and Youth Affairs and in the Airports by Airport Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation for Promoting Rain Water Harvesting/ adoption of artificial Recharge to Ground Water in the country (except in the water logged areas).

Central Ground Water Authority has directed 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.

The Ministry of Water Resources has instituted 20 Ground Water Augmentation Awards & 1 National Water Award to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) /Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies/ Institutions/ Corporate Sector and Individuals for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, promoting water use efficiency, recycling & re-use of water and creating awareness through people's participation.