

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1559

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012

DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER TABLE

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

- (a) whether several diseases are spreading by consumption water from lower water table due to decline in groundwater;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, especially in rural areas;
- (c) whether the water table has declined in between 2009 & 2010;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Jharkhand; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government?

**Answer**

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

- (a) No such study linking incidences of diseases with declining ground water levels has been carried out by Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources.
- (b) In view of above, question does not arise.
- (c) Comparison of water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board during May, 2009 and May, 2010 indicates that around 59 % of the wells analysed have registered decline in water levels. In Jharkhand, 75% of the wells have registered decline.
- (d) State-wise details are given in Annexure I.
- (e) 'Water' being a State subject, necessary corrective measures are to be taken by the respective State Governments. However, various measures for promoting rain water harvesting and artificial recharge and for regulation of ground water development and management in the country taken by this Ministry are as under:
  - i). 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 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. Matter is being actively pursued with other States.
  - ii). States have been advised for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States including Rajasthan and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.
  - iii). 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.
  - iv). 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.
  - v). 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).
  - vi). Central Ground Water Authority has notified 82 areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. In these notified areas, installation of new ground water abstraction structures is not permitted without prior specific approval of the Authority/ Authorized officer.
  - vii). Central Ground Water Board undertakes the activities like mass awareness and training programmes, painting competitions,

distribution of pamphlets, brochures etc. under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) scheme of Ministry of Water Resources.

viii). Government has constituted Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in the year 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources with the main objective of popularizing the concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders as well as water managers.

ix). 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. It has been estimated that annually about 36 bcm of surplus monsoon runoff can be recharged to augment ground water. The document has been circulated to all the States/ UTs.