

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2709

ANSWERED ON:29.03.2012

DEPLETION OF UNDERGROUND WATER LEVEL

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay; Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ; Namdhari Shri Inder Singh; Patle Kamla Devi ; Shekhawat Shri Gopal Singh

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

- (a) the details of the underground water level in the country for the current assessment year, State-wise, particularly for Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) whether the fall in groundwater level in Chhattisgarh is mainly due to reckless exploitation of groundwater by the private companies/ power plants/industries and if so, the steps taken by the Government;
- (c) whether there have been any positive outcomes from the measures taken by the Government and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the drinking water crisis in the States including Chhattisgarh?

**Answer**

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

- (a) State wise details of depth of water level including that of Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh as observed during May, 2011 and November, 2011 are given in Annexure I and II respectively.
- (b) As per the latest assessment of ground water resources (as on 2009) carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organization, out of the total annual ground water withdrawal of 3.60 billion cubic metres (bcm) in the state of Chhattisgarh, withdrawal for domestic and industrial uses together is 0.52 bcm, which accounts for about 14% of the total ground water extraction. The remaining 86 % (3.02 bcm) of ground water withdrawal is for irrigation. Out of 146 blocks, 14 blocks fall under semi-critical category and rest under safe category.
- 'Water' being a State subject, necessary measures to check depletion of ground water levels are to be undertaken by the State Governments. Government of Chhattisgarh has implemented artificial recharge measures in Gujra watershed (Patan block, Durgdistt.) and rain water harvesting under Joint Forest Management Programme in parts of Dhamtari District. Water conservation measures have been implemented by 'Action For Food Production (AFPRO)' in parts of Bilaspur, Kanker and Bastar districts. Besides these, Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources has been promoting rain water harvesting and artificial recharge through various activities like mass awareness campaigns, training programmes, painting competitions, display of hoardings, distribution of pamphlets etc.
- (c) Artificial recharge measures implemented by the Government have shown significant improvement in water levels. The details of impact assessment of artificial recharge projects implemented by Central Ground Water Board are given in Annexure III.
- (d) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation provides financial assistance to State Governments under the centrally sponsored scheme 'Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)'. Under ARWSP, upto 20% of the allotted funds can be utilized to tackle water quality problems.