

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1096

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012

EFFECT OF MONSOON ON WATER TABLE

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to make provision for water for irrigation in the current year owing to deficient rainfall;
- (b) the State-wise and region-wise details of the depletion in water table due to irrigation by ground water as a result of poor monsoon; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to check ground water table depletion?

**Answer**

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

(a) "Water" being a State subject, steps to make provision of water for irrigation owing to deficient rainfall are undertaken by the State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes, Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies, and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water etc.

(b) Ground water levels are monitored by Central Ground Water Board during the months of January, April/ May, August and November. State-wise details of depletion in water table due to irrigation by ground water as a result of poor monsoon is waned out in the month of November.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to check ground water table depletion:

# Circulation of Model Bill to regulate and control development and management of ground water by Ministry of Water Resources to the States/ UTs. So far fourteen States/ UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have enacted ground water legislation. Matter is being actively pursued with other States.

# Advising States for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.

# Issuance of directions by 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.

# Issuance of directions by CGWA 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.

# Issuance of directions by CGWA 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 railway 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).

# Issuance 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.

# Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water by the Government to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders as well as water managers.

# Institution of 5 National Water Awards & 2 National Water Excellence Awards by the Ministry of Water Resources 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.

# Organization of IEC activities like mass awareness and training programmes, painting competition, displaying models in exhibitions and fairs, printing of Meghdoot cards, display of hoardings at prominent public places etc. by the Central Ground Water Board.

# Notification of 82 areas in the country by Central Ground Water Authority for regulation of ground water development and management.

# Evaluation of proposals based on site specific technical studies and guidelines laid by Central Ground Water Authority for issuing NOC for withdrawal of ground water for new industries/ projects falling in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas in the country.

Implementation of Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) through Agricultural Universities/ ICAR Institutes/ WALMIS/ Engineering Colleges etc., which aims at creating awareness for increasing water use efficiency, water conservation including rainwater harvesting and related issues among the farmers.