

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2028

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

DEPLETION OF WATER RESOURCES

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise details in respect of inability of the State Governments in taking action with regard to depletion of groundwater level;
- (b) whether there are any lacunae in the Model Groundwater Bill due to which the shortage of groundwater still prevails and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the consumption of water for irrigation and other purposes has increased at a faster pace than the Government's assessment and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any special irrigation projects for the States wherever groundwater is depleting fast and if so, the details thereof especially for Bundelkhand; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to implement 'blue rating' for increasing management of water on the lines of 'green rating' for eco-friendly ventures and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) In spite of various efforts made by the State Governments to control the situation, ground water levels are depleting because of the following reasons:

Increased ground water withdrawals to meet increased water demands of various sectors creating imbalance between recharge and withdrawal.

Ground water rights are linked with land ownership.

Regulatory measures have been initiated within the last decade only.

(b) Shortage of groundwater still prevails in some parts of the country due to increased ground water withdrawals more than the recharge. In order to address the issue of continued shortage of groundwater, Planning Commission has suggested following in the Model Bill circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources:

Model bill needs to address existing over-exploitation rather than largely grandfathering existing users.

It restricts existing rights in a limited way without changing the legal status of groundwater. By failing to do so, the Model Bill ends up reaffirming the nexus between land and access to groundwater.

It needs to sever the link between land ownership and control over groundwater to ensure socially more equitable access to groundwater and to ensure regulation of groundwater on an aquifer basis.

It does not provide any institutional structure below the state level.

(c) Consumption of ground water for various uses has been increasing at a rapid pace. A comparison of ground water resource assessments carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations as on 2004 and 2009 indicates that consumption of ground water for various uses has increased from 231 bcm to 243 bcm.

(d) The irrigation projects including the minor irrigation schemes are undertaken by the respective State Governments as per their own priorities. With a view to encourage the completion of ongoing projects and help states in creation of irrigation potential, Government of India provides financial assistance (grant) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). In case of minor irrigation schemes, the central assistance to the states is provided to the schemes in the states of North-Eastern Region, hilly states namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, undivided Koraput, Bolandir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha and schemes benefitting tribal areas and drought prone areas.

Since inception of AIBP for minor irrigation projects, a total no. of 14197 MI Schemes with a combined total estimated cost of Rs. 16597.3973 crores have been taken up in the states upto 21.08.2012 of which 10495 MI schemes have been completed upto 31.03.2012. The total potential planned of above schemes is 19.987723 lakh ha. An irrigation potential of 10.9380 lakh ha has been achieved against a total financial assistance (Loan/grants) of Rs. 9933.8436 crore released by Government of India upto 21.08.2012.

Buedelkhand Package :

i) Madhya Pradesh

Project proposal for 78 water bodies received under Bundelkhand package of M.P. region costing to Rs.41.89 crore . The 78 proposals were in General category and eligible for 25% of Central share amounting to Rs.10.47 crore. A total central grant amounting to Rs. 9.950 crore has since been released to Government of M.P. for 78 water bodies. Works has been completed in 72 water bodies.

ii) Uttar Pradesh

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had requested for taking up of 28 water bodies at a cost of Rs 46.15 crore in DPAP category under RRR scheme of water bodies with domestic support during 2010-11. A total central grant amounting to Rs 29.08 crore has since been released to Government of Uttar Pradesh for 28 water bodies.

(e) There is no such proposal to implement 'blue rating' for increasing management on the lines of 'green rating' for eco-friendly ventures.