

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:725
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012
WATER RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of agricultural production based on ground water in the country;
- (b) whether decline in the ground water level has adversely affected the foodgrain production in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Union Government has assessed the existing situation in each State/Union Territory in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for sustainable utilisation of water resources for agricultural purposes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) : As per available estimates (2009-10) out of 192.20 million hectare gross cropped area, in about 86.42 million hectare crops are grown under irrigated condition. Ground water constitutes about 62% of the irrigated area and it is estimated that about 38% of total food grain production comes from areas irrigated with ground water.

(b) & (c): In the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi, annual ground water draft is beyond replenishable volume. However, overall food grain production has been increasing and food grain production which was about 217.28 million tonnes in 2006-07 has increased to 257.44 million tonnes in 2011-12.

(d) & (e): Central Ground Water Board has made an assessment (March, 2009) of dynamic ground water resources in the country. State-wise status of ground water development is annexed.

(f): Water being a States subject, measures for sustainable use of ground water are undertaken by State Governments. Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)/Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) are promoting rain water harvesting and artificial recharge through implementation of pilot projects, publication of Manual on artificial recharge to ground water, mass awareness and training programmes etc. Directions have been issued by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to 12 States and 2 Union Territories having over- exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote / adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) is being implemented by MoWR through Agricultural Universities/ICAR Institutes/Water and Land Management Institutes/Engineering Colleges etc. to create awareness for water conservation including rainwater harvesting and related issues among farmers.

Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development are also implementing watershed development programmes under which soil and water conservation measures are taken up for ground water recharge and live saving irrigation. To enhance water use efficiency, National Mission on Micro Irrigation is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture. Besides, under all major development programmes of Ministry of Agriculture, viz., Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) etc., construction of farm ponds and other means of water harvesting are encouraged for sustainable use of water resources.