

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2162
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
DESERTIFICATION OF PUNJAB
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the reports on the alarmingly steep fall in water table of Central Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such studies are pointing towards near desertification of Punjab; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Analysis of long term pre-monsoon water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the May, 2003 to May, 2012 has indicated that 63% of the observation wells monitored in Punjab have registered decline in ground water levels and the remaining 37% of the wells have registered rise. District-wise details including those of Central Punjab are given in Annexure I. Major part of the State covering districts of Amritsar, Bhatinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Nawanshahar, Patiala and Sangrur districts has shown decline of more than four metres during the past 10 years. As per the latest assessment of replenishable ground water resources carried out jointly by CGWB and Government of Punjab, out of 138 blocks, 110 fall under 'Over-exploited' category, 3 in 'Critical' category, 2 in 'Semi-critical' and 23 in 'Safe' category. District-wise details of over-exploited, critical and semi -critical blocks are given in Annexure-II.

(c) & (d) Study linking decline of ground water with near desertification has not been carried out.