

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2204

ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012

EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER

Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay;Suvendu Shri Adhikari

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

- (a) the total quantity of usable fresh water annually available in the country;
- (b) whether there has been excessive exploitation of ground water in last five years;
- (c) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to control the emerging problem of hydrological imbalance due to extraction of ground water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of States which have experienced excessive exploitation of ground water and the reasons for the same; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure that there is no excessive exploitation of ground water?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) The average annual availability of water resources in the Country has been assessed to be 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). However, the utilizable water resources considering topographic, hydrological and other constraints has been estimated to be 1123 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water.

(b) The overall stage of ground water development has increased from 58% as on 2004 to 61% in 2009. However, the development of ground water resources in different areas of the country has not been uniform. Intensive development of ground water in certain areas in the country has resulted in over – exploitation. The State-wise details of ground water level fluctuation for the last five year from May, 2006 to May, 2011 are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d) Measures to control over-exploitation of ground water resources are to be undertaken by the respective State Governments. Central Ground Water Authority has also notified 162 over-exploited areas in the Country for regulation of ground water development and management.

(e) States having major over-exploitation of ground water include Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Daman & Diu and Puducherry. Main reason for over-exploitation of ground water is its use in agriculture sector.

(f) To ensure that there is no over-exploitation of ground water, a Model Bill has been circulated to all the States / UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation and development. Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directives to Chief Secretaries of 12 States and Administrators of 2 UTs having over-exploited blocks so as to take measures to promote / adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rainwater harvesting. CGWA has also taken up with various Central and State organizations for adopting rainwater harvesting and recharge to the ground water.