

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3222
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
BOREWELLS IN JHARKHAND
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agricultural activities in Jharkhand region are fully dependent on borewells and as a result the groundwater resources are getting depleted in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of groundwater in the State in comparison to the groundwater availability during the last three years; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Agricultural activities in Jharkhand region are dependent on both the groundwater and surface water resources for irrigation. As a result, groundwater levels in some parts of the State have declined.

(b) As per the latest assessment of replenishable groundwater resources carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources and the State Government as on 2009, the annual replenishable ground water resources in the State have been assessed as 5.96 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). Out of 208 assessed blocks, four blocks in the State are over-exploited and 2 each are critical and semi-critical. A comparison of groundwater level data monitored during pre-monsoon period for the last three years from May, 2010 to May, 2012 indicates rise of groundwater levels in 52% and decline in remaining 48% of the wells. Around 42% of the wells have registered fall in the range of 0-2 metres and 6% have registered fall in the range of 2-4 metres. District-wise details are given in Annexure- I to III.

(c) To ensure that there is no over-exploitation of groundwater, a Model Bill has been circulated to all the States / Union Territories including Jharkhand to enable them to enact groundwater legislation for its regulation and development. CGWB has also implemented demonstrative rain water harvesting projects at three places in Ranchi Urban area during XIth Plan for replication by the State.