

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3333
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
AVAILABILITY OF GROUNDWATER
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of the current availability of groundwater in the country and percentage of its utilisation for various purposes including irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the percentage of rain water which trickles into groundwater thereby increasing the water table;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to construct underground reservoirs to tap the rain water for streamlining the water distribution; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The latest assessment of replenishable ground water resources has been carried out, jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources and the respective State Governments, as on 2009. As per the assessment, the annual replenishable groundwater resources are estimated at 431 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). Annual withdrawal of groundwater for irrigation is about 91% and that of domestic and industrial uses is 9% of the total annual withdrawal of groundwater.

(c) The Ground Water Estimation Committee (GEC'1997) has estimated that the recharge from rainfall varies from 3% to 25% of the normal rainfall depending upon the hydrogeological conditions, thereby increasing the water table.

(d) CGWB has been promoting rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to the groundwater for augmenting groundwater resources in the aquifers, which are natural underground reservoirs. However, there is no proposal to construct underground reservoirs to harvest rain water.

(e) In view of reply to part (d), does not arise.