

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4431
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012
SUSTAINABLE USE OF GROUNDWATER
Chaudhary Shri Jayant

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any data available on the rate at which groundwater has been declining in the country over the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the long-term plan to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater and regulation of the extraction of groundwater to ensure effective management of the resource;
- (d) whether the States have adopted the Model Bill that the Government proposed for regulation of groundwater usage in 2011 and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken to coordinate effectively with State organisations to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors groundwater levels on regional scale through a network of 15653 observation wells located throughout the Country. Water levels are monitored four times in a year during the months of January, April/May, August and November. Analysis of groundwater level data for the pre-monsoon period (April/ May) during the last five years (2007 – 2012) indicates that 55% of the wells analysed have registered declining trend. In majority of the wells, water level has declined upto 1 meter/ year. State-wise details of rate of decline during last five years are given in Annexure.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a Model Bill to regulate and control groundwater development and management in the Country. The Model Bill has been circulated by the Ministry to all the States/ Union Territories for enactment of groundwater legislation. So far 14 States / UTs have enacted the legislation. The draft National Water Policy, 2012 also aims at evolving a strategy to address this issue. The Planning Commission (as part of the Working Group on Water Governance) constituted a Sub Group ""Legal issues related to Groundwater Management and Regulation"" for the formulation of the Twelfth Five Year Plan. The Sub Group prepared a "

Model Bill for the Protection, Conservation, Management and Regulation of Groundwater, 2011". This Model Bill has been placed in the Planning Commission's website as a document under Steering/Working Group for the 12th Five Year Plan. Further, the Model Bill has been referred to in the Draft Twelfth Five Year Plan Document prepared by the Planning Commission.

(e) For increasing the level of ground water, CGWB has implemented various demonstrative pilot artificial recharge projects under Central Sector scheme. Implementation of such projects would enable the State Organizations to replicate. Besides, for ensuring sustainable use of groundwater, CGWB organizes capacity building programmes on various aspects of ground water survey, monitoring and management through its Rajiv Gandhi National Ground Water Training & Research Institute.