

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4491

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012

DECLINE IN GROUNDWATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of groundwater which is the main source of drinking water is depleting rapidly in various parts of the country due to which the problem of scarcity of drinking water has arisen in those areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any scheme for recharging of groundwater is under consideration/ proposed to be formulated by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) 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) to (e) To promote groundwater recharge and enhance ground water level throughout the nation, CGWB has implemented demonstrative artificial recharge projects. Implementation of such projects would enable the State Organizations to replicate. In addition, technical assistance is provided to the State Governments and other agencies for recharge to groundwater and rain water harvesting. However, there is no new proposal during 2012-13 for promotion of groundwater recharge.