

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3941  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013  
DEVELOPMENT OF GROUNDWATER  
Mahato Shri Narahari; Tirkey Shri Manohar

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

- (a) whether various international institutions including World Bank and Administrative Commissions have shown their concern and suggested measures for sustainable development of groundwater in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the effective steps taken by the Union Government thereon?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The World Bank has brought out a report entitled "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Over-exploitation in India". The report has suggested a combination of demand side measures, conjunctive use and groundwater recharge enhancement to manage over-exploitation of groundwater in the Country and have indicated a set of pragmatic measures that can be effectively implemented at ground level.

(c) The Central Government promotes water conservation measures in the Country by supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources by way of technical and financial support through various schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme; Command Area Development and Water Management; Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies; Demonstrative Projects on Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to ground water. Besides, the Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective, inter alia, of conservation of water. A Model Bill has also been circulated by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the States and Union Territories to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation, development and conservation. In addition, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of UTs having 'Over-exploited' blocks 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.