

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4112
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
EXPERT COMMITTEE ON GROUNDWATER
Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has set up an Expert Committee to report upon various issues relating to Groundwater;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) An Expert Group, set up by the Planning Commission to review the issues of ground water in the Country, submitted its report in the year 2007. The report, inter alia, covers issues such as availability and use of groundwater, causes and consequences of over-exploitation, scope and efficacy of groundwater recharge, legal position and role of Central Government in groundwater management. The Expert Group has suggested for taking initiatives promote groundwater sustainability such as technical measures, pricing & supply of electricity, incentives for improving management efficiencies, cooperative management and institutional changes.

(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 directives 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 groundwater.