

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5938  
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013  
FALL IN GROUNDWATER LEVEL  
Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

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

- (a) whether the Second Administrative Reforms Commission has expressed concern about the falling groundwater level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government so far to address the said concerns?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), in its 3rd Report, under chapter on "India's Key Hazards, Vulnerabilities And The Crisis Response Mechanism", has mentioned that "Irrigation, using groundwater aggravates the situation in the long run as ground-water withdrawal exceeds replenishment". In the Report, ARC, inter alia, has recommended for taking up of ground water recharge and watershed development programmes on priority.

(c) For solving the problem of falling ground water level, Central Government has taken following steps:-

(i) Extending technical and financial support to States/UTs under schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; Command Area Development and Water Management; Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies for conservation of water resources in the Country.

(ii) CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for artificial recharge to ground water in the Country.

(iii) Setting up of National Water Mission with the objective of, inter-alia, conservation of water resources.

(iv) Circulation of a Model Bill by the Ministry of Water Resources to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation, development and conservation; and

(v) Advisory by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to all the Chief Secretaries of the States and Administrators of the Union Territories, having 'Over-exploited' blocks, to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting.