

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2160

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013

DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER

Adityanath Shri Yogi;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Pakirappa Shri S.;Pandey Saroj;Patel Shri Bal Kumar;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara;Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the rapidly declining ground water level in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the average ground water level in different States, State-wise and UT-wise;
- (d) whether schemes/projects have been initiated for the development and regulation of ground water including suitable legislations by the States in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (c) Ground water is continuously being exploited for drinking, irrigation and various other purposes due to which ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining. 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. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors ground water levels on regional basis four times a year through a network of 15653 ground water observation wells located in the Country. As per the data of CGWB for the month of May 2013, about 41% of the wells analysed have shown ground water level in the range of 5 to 10 meters below ground level (mbgl). State/UT-wise details of ground water levels are Annexed.

(d) & (e) The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government 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. Besides, Ministry of Water Resources has also circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control groundwater development and management in the Country. So far, fourteen (14) States / UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli have modified the Model Bill as per their requirement and enacted the legislation. Government of Maharashtra has enacted Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purposes), Act 1993. Government of Maharashtra has also introduced and passed a Comprehensive Ground Water Bill in the Legislative Assembly to regulate and manage ground water resources in the State. Fifteen(15) States/UTs, namely, Andaman & Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have initiated action for enactment of the Model Bill. States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have indicated that their ground water development is low and thus they do not feel the need to adopt the Bill.