

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:76

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

CONSERVATION OF GROUNDWATER

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Baittha Shri Kameshwar ;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Thomas Shri P. T.;Virendra Kumar Shri

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

- (a) whether the groundwater level has been falling down due to large scale exploitation of groundwater resources;
- (b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the conservation and preservation of groundwater resources including promotion of rain water harvesting for the purpose and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the other steps being taken by the Union Government to raise the groundwater level?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Ground water is continuously being exploited for drinking, irrigation and various other purposes due to which ground water levels in some parts of the Country are declining.

(b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), had undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation", wherein 133 Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects were sanctioned for construction of 1661 structures in 21 States out of which 1223 structures have been completed. State-wise details are given at Annexure.

(c) 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. Steps taken by the Central Government include:

(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). Master Plan by CGWB 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;

(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/ rainwater harvesting; and

(vi). The Central Scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation, under implementation during XII Plan, inter-alia, envisages participatory management of groundwater involving Panchayat Raj Institutions, local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders for ensuring sustainable management of groundwater resources in the Country etc.