

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1201  
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013  
INCENTIVES FOR GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION  
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any stringent measures to improve the groundwater level in the country and whether suitable incentives are on the anvil for the States/UTs which are performing excellently in conserving/ improving groundwater and are effectively implementing rain water harvesting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) & (b) Various State Governments enact Statutes/ Rules/ Regulations and Building Bylaws etc to ensure effective implementation of rainwater harvesting through concerned Municipal/ State Development Authorities. Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of The Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Authority has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rainwater harvesting. CGWA has also taken up the matter with various Central and State government organizations for adopting rainwater harvesting and recharge to the ground water. A Model Bill has also been circulated to all the States/UTs which, inter-alia, has provisions for rainwater harvesting to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation and management. Ministry of Water Resources had instituted Ground Water Augmentation Awards & National Water Award in the year 2007. There were 20 Ground Water Augmentation Awards in six categories and one National Water Award. The awards were given during the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The awards have now been replaced with 5 National Water Awards & 2 National Water Excellence Awards to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/ Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies/ Institutions/ Corporate Sector and Individuals for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, promoting water use efficiency, recycling & re-use of water and creating awareness through people's participation.
- (c) In view of the reply to part (a) & (b) above, question does not arise.