

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1249

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013

DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the areas in the country where the depletion of groundwater has reached an alarming level, State-wise;
- (b) the details the dark zones in which such crisis situation is present in the country; and
- (c) whether the Government proposes to implement a time bound scheme after fixing the target in such areas and if so, the details thereof

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out periodic assessment of replenishable ground water resources jointly with the respective State Governments. As per the assessment (as on 2009), out of 5842 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas/ Districts) in the Country, 802 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' based on the annual ground water extraction, net annual ground water availability and a significant decline observed in long term ground water levels. The details are given in 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) Preparation of 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.