

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1370
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2013
NET IRRIGATED AREA
Jawale Shri Haribhau Madhav

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the latest available report on `the Land Use Statistics at a Glance` the net irrigated area as percentage of net sown area has decreased from 45.2 per cent in 2009-10 to 44.9 in 2010-11;
- (b) if so, the present status thereof;
- (c) the details of irrigation by surface water and ground water, State-wise;
- (d) whether the race for bringing more and more land under irrigation would lead to irreversible depletion of ground water; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the information received from the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation, the percentage of net irrigated area over net sown area for the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 is 44.5 and 44.9 respectively.

(c) The State-wise percentage scenario and details of area irrigated by surface water and groundwater is at Annexure.

(d) Ground water is a replenishable resource, which is recharged naturally by rainfall and other sources every year. However, when annual ground water withdrawal exceeds the natural recharge, depletion of ground water levels takes place. Withdrawal of ground water more than natural recharge and in the absence of measures, such as augmentation, conservation and optimal utilization of ground water resources, may lead to depletion of ground water.

(e) Central Government promotes water conservation measures in the country, by supplementing efforts of State Governments for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources by way of technical and financial support through various schemes. Steps taken by the Government to address the problem of depletion of ground water, inter alia, include:-

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

Setting up the National Water Mission with one of the goals being conservation of water.

Circulation of a Model bill by Ministry of Water Resources to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact ground water legislation for its regulation, development and conservation. # Advisory by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to all the Chief Secretaries of States and Administrators of Union Territories, having 'Over-exploited' blocks, to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water /rain water harvesting.

Government of India has declared year 2013 as "Water Conservation Year" in which several awareness activities like workshops, publicity in print and electronic media, competitions etc. are being organized on water conservation and its sustainable management etc.