

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2050  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013  
USE OF GROUNDWATER RESOURCES  
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has recently launched an awareness programme to educate farmers on sustainable use of groundwater resources in rainfed areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has launched this programme through the print/electronic media for the farmers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the success achieved so far, in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) to (d): Government has constituted Advisory Council on Mass Awareness on Water Conservation in June, 2013 with the objective to initiate a major awareness campaign on water conservation to propagate the policies and programmes of Ministry of Water Resources with a view to achieve the goals of the National Water Policy 2012 and National Water Mission. Mass awareness campaigns on various aspects of ground water management were organized by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). So far about 455 mass awareness programmes on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water throughout the country involving Central/State/Non-Government/Voluntary/Welfare Organizations, educational institutions, industries, and individuals were conducted. Films produced by Central Ground Water Authority on rain water harvesting, ground water pollution etc., were shown during various mass awareness programmes. Apart from these Jal Yatras, Run for Water, Speech Competition, Hoardings, Distribution of brochures, Exhibition on water Conservation & Protection were also organized.

Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a scheme namely Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension to spread awareness about modern technologies and research in agriculture and allied areas. Under this scheme, agriculture related programmes covering various aspects of agriculture including judicious use and conservation of water are broadcast through Doordarshan, All India Radio and private channels.

(e): Stage of ground water development has increased from 58% in 2004 to 61% in 2009 where as Blocks/Mandals/Talukas categorized as overexploited, critical and semi critical have reduced from 29% to 26% during this period.