

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:390

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2014

DEVELOPMENT OF GROUND WATER

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has suggested various measures for development of ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the measures suggested by the World Bank;
- (d) whether certain international for a on ground water have also suggested various steps for sustainable development of ground water; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.390 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.02.2014 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "DEVELOPMENT OF GROUND WATER" ASKED BY SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI AND SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL, HON'BLE M.Ps, LOK SABHA:

(a) to (e) The World Bank has undertaken a study and technical assistance initiative on Ground Water Management in India with the objectives of identifying management strategies for promoting sustainable groundwater use in the heavily groundwater dependent States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. Based on the outcome of the study, the World Bank has brought out the report "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Over-exploitation in India" in the year 2010. The report has suggested a number of measures like an increase in water tariffs in urban settings; reducing crop water requirements as well as non-beneficial evapo-transpiration from fields in agricultural settings; conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in specific areas; groundwater recharge enhancement to manage over-exploitation of groundwater in the Country etc.

Several reports by international organizations such as United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) etc. have mentioned about ground water related issues and challenges in the Country, which, inter-alia, include measures to be taken for sustainable development and management of ground water.

Government of India promotes water conservation measures in the Country by supplementing the efforts of the State Governments for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources by way technical and financial support through its various schemes. 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 a Master Plan for artificial recharge to ground water in the Country by Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (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) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Section 3(3) of The Environment protection Act, 1986, has notified 162 areas in the Country where withdrawal of ground water for the purpose other than drinking is prohibited.

(vi) Advisory by 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.

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