

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4253

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

DEPLETING GROUND WATER LEVEL

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up Expert Committee to report upon various issues relating to Ground Water;
- (b) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) The Expert Group on Ground Water Management and Ownership constituted by the Planning Commission submitted its report to the Planning Commission in September,2007. The measures recommended by the Expert Group include:-

Enactment of modified ground legislation encompassing inter alia role and responsibility of water user groups and the Government by all the States and intervention by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in over-exploited areas.

Technical measures to augment the available ground water through artificial recharge, development of flood plain aquifers and comprehensive studies of deeper aquifers to ascertain the quantum of ground water that can be safely extracted.

Uninterrupted power supply through separate feeders at pre-specified fixed period and incentives for more efficient energy and water use.

Community management of new wells, construction of recharge structures, using energy saving devices and subsidy for using micro-irrigation techniques in ground water stressed areas.

Pani Puraskar to Panchayats using water sustainably where ground water table has been maintained or improved over the past five years.

Scientific monitoring of ground water levels and estimating a sustainable level of ground water usage by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Ground Water Boards to form the basis for planning the use of ground water resources by the user groups.

(c) The action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Expert Group include:-

Sanction of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB and implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells" for augmenting the ground water resources in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh.

Mapping of flood plain aquifers in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal along river Ganga and in Assam along river Brahmaputra.

Implementation of Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices.

Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars & National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and artificial recharge through people's participation.

Periodic monitoring of ground water levels and assessment of ground water resources by CGWB in association with State Ground Water Organisations which forms the basis for planning ground water development and management schemes by the Government.