

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4334

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

RECEDING GROUND WATER DUE TO DEEP EXPLORATION

Hamsrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai ;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the ground water level is fast receding in Northern Gujarat due to exploration done by ONGC for oil and gas;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof ; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain the ground water level in this region?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) A study conducted by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to examine as to whether water levels in Mehsana and neighbouring region in Gujarat have depleted due to excavation for oil and gas by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has indicated that decline in ground water levels is not linked to excavation for oil and gas.

(c) The measures being taken by the Government to maintain ground water level in the country including Gujarat are:-

# Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB in the country.

# 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.

# Implementation of scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies. The objectives of the scheme cover augmentation of ground water recharge.

# Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

# Setting up Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of regulation of ground water management and development in the country.

# Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.

# States have been advised for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs including Gujarat have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.

In addition to the above, Government of Gujarat has also undertaken schemes and other measures for maintaining ground water level in the State which include implementation of Sardar Patel Sahabhagi Jal Sanchay Yojana, Sujalam Sufalam Yojana, Lift Irrigation schemes for diverting excess surface water of canals to dry barren lands and constructing recharge tubewells, check dams etc.