

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1087  
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014  
WATER CONSERVATION AND RECHARGE  
Rajesh Shri M. B.

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the new initiatives of the Government for water conservation and water recharge;
- (b) the measures taken to check depletion of ground water;
- (c) the steps taken to strengthen the regulatory bodies;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to bring new legislation for water conservation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION;  
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE). (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) CGWB has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country in an area of 9,41,541 square km by harnessing surplus monsoon runoff to augment ground water resources. Further, the National Water Policy (2012), which has been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries /Departments of Central Government for appropriate action, also highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. Initiatives for water conservation and water recharge are being undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources in the reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes and programmes to facilitate this.

(b) Government of India 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 and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies etc. A National Water Mission, has also been set up to inter-alia, promote conservation of water resources. To ensure adequate availability of funds for these Schemes, a sum of Rs.109553 crore has been earmarked for the Water Resources Sector during the XIIth Plan.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to regulate and control development and management of ground water. So far, thirteen (13) States/UTs namely, Andhra Pradesh (undivided), Goa, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Assam and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have enacted the legislation on the lines of the Model Bill. In Maharashtra, the State Legislature has passed the Maharashtra Groundwater (Development and Management) Act 2009. MoWR is pursuing with the remaining States/UTs to 'Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water' on the basis of the 'Model Bill'.