

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:166

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014

GROUND WATER LEVEL

Kumar Shri Ashwini;Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) whether the ground water level in various parts of the country is declining, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any mechanism exists to periodically monitor the ground water level, if so, the details thereof along with the water level reported in the inspections so carried over during the last three years and the current year and the corrective action taken thereon; and
- (c) whether there is scarcity of clean drinking water owing to excessive ground water extraction, if so, the details thereof and the measures undertaken to provide adequate and safe drinking water to the masses?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.166 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2014 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "GROUND WATER LEVEL" ASKED BY SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR AND SHRI RAVNEET SINGH, HON'BLE M.Ps, LOK SABHA:

(a) Yes, Madam. Ground water is continuously being exploited due to growth in population, increased industrialization and irrigation as a result of which ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining.

(b) & (c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, on regional scale through a network of observation wells in the Country. Ground water monitoring data of CGWB for pre-monsoon 2014, compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2004-2013), indicates that out of total wells analyzed, around 39% of the wells are showing a decline in ground water level in various parts of the Country. Recent ground water resource estimation has also indicated that there are 1071 'Over-Exploited' areas, 217 'Critical' areas and 697 'Semi-Critical' areas. Water levels reported during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure.

The Government is promoting rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge measures in the Country, by supplementing the efforts of State Governments through technical and financial support under various schemes. In addition, 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. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

In addition, as per the information available from Ministry of Rural Development, 2009951 works pertaining to water conservation and water harvesting under MGNREGA have been taken up during the financial year 2013-14, out of which 118438 have been completed till December, 2013.

'Water' being a State subject, measures for safe water supply are being undertaken by the concerned State Governments. Government of India through Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MoDWS) supplements the efforts of the States by providing them technical and financial support to the schemes being developed for drinking water supply in the States. MoDWS has informed that 20% of the allocated funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are earmarked for water quality problems. Further, the States may also utilize upto 67% of funds released under NRDWP for improving water quality of ground and surface water.