

Title: Need to take measures to arrest further decline in the water level and also take immediate necessary suggested by the Central Ground Water Board.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Respected Sir, a large area in the State of Maharashtra covering almost 13 districts has shown alarming decline in the groundwater level during the last decade. The groundwater authorities have warned that immediate corrective measures should be taken to arrest further decline in the levels. The most bothering fact is that the trends of the last decade suggest that the overall area of water decline is expanding over the years.

The status of groundwater in the State at the end of the year 1998 has been brought out in detail by the Central Ground Water Board, in its report titled "Trends of Ground Water Levels in Maharashtra and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli". The reports point out that water level decline has been noticed in large areas extending from Amravati to Buldana, a large area around Jalgaon and a moderately large area around Aurangabad and Jalna. Few isolated spots in Nagpur district including Kondhali, Satnawari and Nayakund on Amravati Road have shown a noticeable decline.

The water level decline in majority of these areas have been recorded at 0.2 meters per cent.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Muttemwar, please understand that there are other Members. You can say the substance.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, this is a serious matter. ...(Interruptions) It means that the water levels have gone down by approximately two meters during the decade. In some of the areas the water level decline rate is more than 0.4 per cent per year.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to take urgent and necessary measures to arrest further decline in the water levels and also take immediate necessary measures suggested by the Central Ground Water Board.