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Title: Need to take measures to increase the underground water table in the country.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the alarming situation arising out of depleting groundwater table in the country. We have been seeing in rural areas that even after digging 1500 feet, we are not getting drinking water. The survey conducted by the Government of India and the information given to us clearly show that in more than 60 per cent of all the bore-wells that were surveyed, there is depletion of groundwater due to overuse and unsustainable exploitation of water. Of course, some States have enacted laws to prevent overexploitation and unsustainable exploitation of water.

Hence, remedial measures have to be taken by the Government of India because the non-perennial rivers in the country are drying up. Therefore, my suggestion and request to the Government of India is that taking some remedial measures with regard to recharging of groundwater is of paramount consideration. We also require watershed management, percolation tanks and even diversion of flood waters. Otherwise, in future, we will have to face severe consequences in regard to drinking water. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India to take immediate measures with regard to this.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member Shri D.K. Suresh is permitted to associate himself with what the hon. Member has said.