

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1043
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2003
WATER CRISIS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Union Government have received reports from many States that their lakes and wells have dried and cities have been forced to ration the water supply;
- (b) if so, whether the Central Ground Water Authority has conducted any survey in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BHOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) As per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), significant decline in the levels of ground water have been observed in certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, NCT of Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In some such areas, hand pumps and tubewells are reported to have become defunct.

(d) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government has initiated following measures to augment ground water resources in the country:-

- (i) Implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country.
- (ii) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Rain Water Harvesting" at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crore for implementation during the X Plan. The scheme is at consultation stage.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.
- (iv) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.
- (v) Circulation of a Model Bill in the year 1970 which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- (vi) Constitution of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (vii) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting ([www. cgwbindia.com](http://www.cgwbindia.com)) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.