

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2829  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003  
DECLINE IN WATER LEVEL  
HARIBHAU MAHALE;NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the extent to which ground water level has been declined during the last three years alongwith reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up a High Level Committee to look into the matter; and
- (c) if so, the efforts made by the Government to arrest the fall in water level?

**Answer**

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

(a) State-wise details of the extent of decline in the levels of ground water during the last three years, as per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is given in the enclosed Statement. The main reasons for decline in ground water level are rapid pace of urbanization, increasing demand for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes, change in cropping pattern and excessive withdrawals of ground water, poor rainfall etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 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.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2829 DATED 11.08. REGARDING DECLINE IN WATER LEVEL

STATE-WISE GROUND WATER DECLINE (PRE-MONSOON) BETWEEN 1999-2002

Sl. No.	States	No. of districts	Range (in metres)
	recorded decline in water level		

1 Andhra Pradesh

15

0.24-5.78

2	Arunachal Pradesh	4	0.85-1.91
3	Assam	11	0.16-1.88
4	Bihar	7	0.14-1.66
5	Chhattisgarh	15	1.00-2.20
6	Delhi	6	0.54-8.57
7	Gujarat	5	0.45-3.32
8	Haryana	17	0.20-3.96
9	Himachal Pradesh	6	1.30-1.61
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1.13-2.09
11	Jharkhand	8	0.38-4.40
12	Karnataka	20	0.19-3.22
13	Kerala	6	0.40-1.43
14	Madhya Pradesh	34	0.14-4.31
15	Maharashtra	27	0.15-2.68
16	Meghalaya	1	0.70
17	Orissa	12	0.13-1.48
18	Punjab	14	0.25-3.53
19	Rajasthan	17	0.48-4.46
20	Tamil Nadu	27	0.50-5.79
21	Uttar Pradesh	25	0.12-3.45
22	West Bengal	17	0.24-2.43