# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1801
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
SALINE WATER
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

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

(a) whether ground water is getting saline and the terrain is turning into barren land in the country due to lack of water harvesting and excessive exploitation of ground water;

(b) if so, the names of the affected States;

(c) the quantity of water in terms of percentage available in such States vis-Ã -vis their requirement;

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Excessive exploitation of ground water in parts of coastal States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry has led to sea water ingress resulting in salinisation of ground water. Instances of upcoming of saline water due to over-exploitation of ground water from the fresh ground water bearing aquifer overlying the saline aquifer have also been reported from the inland salinity affected area of South-West Delhi. However, land has not been converted into barren except for some parts of Gujarat. Lack of water harvesting is not the cause for salinity in ground water. But, adoption of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge in the affected areas may help in improving the quality of ground water. The State-wise position of ground water available and annual ground water draft is given at Annexure.

(d) & (e) "Water" being the State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UTs to take remedial measures to improve the situation. Steps taken by the Governments in the respective States are listed below:-

| State/UTs | Steps Taken |
|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | # Government of Andhra Pradesh has also introduced Water, Land and Trees Act, 2002 to protect and conserve both surface and ground water for their sustainability.<br># Aquaculture activities are also being monitored by a High Level Technical Committee. |
| Gujarat | # A High Level Committee was appointed by the State Government to study the salinity problem of Saurashtra and Kachchh region to suggest remedial measures thereof. The committee has recommended various remedial measures like constructing tidal regulators, bandhara, recharge trench, recharge well, recharge reservoirs, spreading channels etc. The construction of following works as suggested by the committee has been taken up by the Government of Gujarat:<br># Check dams across nalas, gullies, small |

| | |
|---|---|
| | tributaries, etc,. and deepening of percolation tanks under Sardar Patel Sahbhagi Jal Sanchay Yojna and Sujalam Sufalam Yojna.<br># A 280 km long Sujalam Sufalam Recharge Canal extending from Kadana dam to Banas river is under construction.<br># Excess surface water from Narmada river basin is being diverted to dry barren land of North Gujarat by uplifting Narmada water from Narmada Main canal through pipe lines.<br># Constructed nos. of recharge tubewells in areas of excessive development of ground water under various schemes in North Gujarat. |
| Maharashtra | # State Government has banned construction of tubewells in the affected areas in order to prevent excessive exploitation of ground water. It has also imposed condition of irrigating only 2 acres per well in the affected areas. |
| Tamil Nadu | # Withdrawal of ground water from Minjur well field has been stopped by the State Government.<br># Obtaining a license for sinking of wells and energizing them with pumps (>1 HP) has been made mandatory in the area falling under the jurisdiction of Chennai Metropolitan Development Area.<br># Installation of rainwater harvesting has been made mandatory for all buildings in Tamil Nadu, which is likely to augment the ground water resources in coastal aquifers over the years.` |
| U.T. of Pondicherry | # Ground water extraction from wells within 6 km of the coastline, for all purposes other than drinking, without the permission of the competent authority, has been banned by laws promulgated by the Government of U.T. of Pondicherry.<br># Installation of rainwater harvesting has been made mandatory for all buildings |
| Delhi | # Central Ground Water Authority has notified Southwest district, where construction of new wells is banned without prior approval of the Authority.<br># Adoption of roof top rain water harvesting has been made mandatory in all new buildings on plot size above 100 sq. m. in NCT, Delhi by the Govt. of Delhi through amendment of Building Bye-laws. |

ANNEXURE

(REFERENCE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1801 FOR 05.12.2005)

POSITION O F GROUND WATER RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND ANNUAL GROUND WATER DRAFT IN THE STATES IN PARTS OF WHICH EXCESSIVE EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER RESULTING IN SALINATION OF GROUND WATER HAS

TAKEN PLACE

| Sl. No. | States / Union Territories | Net Annual Ground Water Availability (BCM/Yr.) | Total Annual Ground Water Draft (BCM/Yr.) | Stage of Ground Water Development (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Delhi | 0.28 | 0.48 | 170 |
| 2 | Gujarat | 15.02 | 11.49 | 76 |
| 3 | Maharashtra | 31.21 | 15.09 | 48 |
| 4 | Tamil Nadu | 20.76 | 17.65 | 85 |
| 5 | Pondicherry | 0.144 | 0.151 | 105 |

#BCM/Yr. Billion Cubic Metre/Year