

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2743  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006  
WATER LEVEL IN DELHI  
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) Whether most of the water in Delhi supply is from the underground water sources ;
- (b) If so, whether the underground water table has been rapidly declining in Delhi during the last few years;
- (c) Whether any steps have been taken or proposed to be taken for recharging the water table in Delhi with the cooperation of `WAPCO` or any other agency;
- (d) If so, the details of the funds allocated and utilised to raise the underground water table during the last three years till-date; and
- (e) The success achieved therein?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir. Majority of the water supply to the residents of Delhi is met from surface water sources. As per information available with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), 100 MGD of water supply to the city is met from ground water.

(b) As per the ground water resource assessment of NCT, Delhi carried out jointly by CGWB and the State recently, seven out of nine districts of Delhi are over-exploited and have shown significant decline of more than 20 cm/yr in ground water level. These are - South, South-west, New Delhi, North-west, West, East and North-east districts.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for recharging the water table in Delhi with the cooperation of WAPCOS or any other agency. No funds have, therefore, been allocated for the purpose during the last three years. `Water` being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps for recharging the water

table in their respective States. However, Central Government has taken the following steps in this regard:-

(i) During the IX Plan, CGWB have implemented successfully artificial recharge projects under the Central Sector Scheme for `Study of Recharge to Ground Water` in 27 States/UTs in the country. In NCT of Delhi, 16 projects were implemented under the above scheme. Impact assessment studies in respect of these projects have shown encouraging results including rise in water levels in some areas.

(ii) Constitution of a Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development. The Authority has notified 20 `over-exploited` and `critical` areas to regulate development of ground water resources in the country which include 3 areas in NCT of Delhi.

(iii) 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. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories. So far Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh have enacted legislations on the lines of Model Bill.

(iv) 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 of ground water levels.

(v) Organisation of mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

(vi) All the States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control. In addition, Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have

been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control. Response from the States/UTs

viz. NCT. of Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Daman & Diu is positive.

(vii) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals including in NCT of Delhi.

(viii) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Jaipur and Ludhiana Municipal Corporations have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases amending building bye-laws.

(ix) The CGWB has also prepared a report entitled `Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water`, which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Meter volume of surplus monsoon runoff, through construction of 39.25 lakhs artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures.

(x) Directions have been issued to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, Hotels, Industries, Farm Houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi, where ground water table is below 8 metres from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

In addition to above, the Government of NCT Delhi has started `Jal Bhagidari` scheme in December, 2002 to promote rain water harvesting for augmentation of ground water recharge under which financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 50,000/- or 50% of the cost of the project is being given to registered RWAs/Co-operative Group Housing Societies/Schools/ Educational Institutions and NGO buildings.