

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:381  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006  
RECEDING GROUND WATER LEVEL  
Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

- (a) whether the World Bank or any other international fora have suggested various measures for development of ground water level in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government as per their suggestions?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF- UD- DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.381 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.12.2006 REGARDING RECEDING GROUND WATER LEVEL

(a) & (b) The World Bank and other international agencies bring out publications from time to time on various issues including those related to water resources. A Report titled `India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future` has been brought out by the World Bank in 2005 which inter-alia presents its authors' view points about ground water resources alongwith certain suggestions. The suggestions include:

- (i) bringing ground water abstractions in line with the re-charge;
- (ii) improving the quality of poor and deteriorating water related environment; and
- (iii) introducing incentive-based, participatory regulation of services and water resources.

(c) Water being a state subject, the schemes for development and management of water resources including those for ground water are taken up by the State Governments. Similarly, the steps to check exploitation of ground water are also undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, most of the issues highlighted in the above-said report are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate action is taken in the light of the present policies of the Union and the State Governments. Further, with a view to encourage and assist the State Governments in this regard, the Ministry of Water Resources has undertaken the following measures:

i. A draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been circulated to the States and Union Territories. The Union Minister of Water Resources in his letter dated 11.9.2006 addressed to the Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territories, has requested to the State Governments to enact ground water legislation for checking over-exploitation of ground water.

ii. Central Ground Water Authority has issued directions to the Chief Secretaries of States having over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

iii. The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders.