

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:185

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2007

DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL

Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any survey on the constantly declining ground water level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the follow-up action taken by the Government on the survey report;
- (d) whether some Multi-national soft-drink companies are engaged in extracting water illegally for their use without prior permission;
- (e) if so, the action taken against such companies;
- (f) whether the Central Ground Water Authority has organized training programmes in the country with a view to create public awareness about roof-top rain-water harvesting;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard;
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (i) the other measures being taken by the Government for improving the ground water level?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (i) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.185 FOR REPLY ON 12.03.2007 REGARDING DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), carries out ground water surveys, exploration and monitoring of ground water levels on a regional basis. The CGWB also carries out Ground Water Resource Estimation in consultation with State Governments at Blocks /Mandals/Talukas level. As per the latest assessment of ground water resources carried out in 2004, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are 'over-exploited' (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100% with significant decline in long term trend of ground water level in either pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both), 226 units are 'critical' (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100% with significant decline in long term trend of water level in both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon periods). State/UT wise numbers of blocks/mandals/ talukas having declining trend in ground water level is Annexed.

(c) The scientific data generated through ground water surveys and exploration have been provided to the State Governments, which help them in planning of ground water resource use and management. 'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable actions for arresting the declining ground water levels in their respective States. However, based on the survey reports the following measures have been taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water levels in the country:

i. Circulation of a Manual 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.

ii. Preparation of a conceptual report titled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water".

iii. Constitution of a Central Ground Water Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

iv. A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" has been taken up by the Central Ground Water Board at a total cost of Rs. 12 crore during the year 2006-07. The scheme is being implemented under the on-going central sector scheme of "Ground water surveys, exploration and investigation".

v. The Union Government has constituted "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council" in the Ministry of Water Resources

with an objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among all stake holders and its adoption. The Advisory Council has representation from various Ministries/Departments concerned with rain water harvesting, States/UTs, Financial Institutions, Industries/ Public Undertakings as well as NGOs and renowned Subject Experts.

(d) & (e) ' Water' being a state subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to regulate the extraction of ground water by industries, including multinational soft drink companies. However, the following measures have been initiated by the Central Government for ensuring regulation of ground water extraction by industries.

(i) The Union Ministry has circulated a Model Bill on regulation and control of development and management of ground water resources to States in 1970, 1992, 1996 & 2005 to facilitate the States to enact and implement legislation on ground water.

(ii) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, is regulating extraction of ground water by new industries including soft drink companies located in Over-exploited / Critical areas on case to case basis.

(f) & (g) The CGWA promotes rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water by conducting mass awareness/ training programmes throughout the country involving Central / State Governments / Non-Government Organizations / Voluntary Organizations / Resident Welfare Associations / Educational Institutions/ Industries and Individuals. So far, the CGWA has conducted 207 training programmes and 290 mass awareness programmes. During 2006-07, 26 mass awareness programmes and 32 training programmes have been conducted.

(h) Does not arise

(i) The Union Government has taken several other measures for improving the ground water level in the country which includes :-

- Ministry of Water Resources has requested other Central Ministries/ Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control.

- To promote roof top rain water harvesting in rural areas, Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a demonstrative scheme through Non-Government Organizations under which funding is provided for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures for collection of rain water for drinking and use in toilets constructed for girls in Girls' Schools in the States.

- The Central Ground Water Authority has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/ promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

- Central Ground Water Authority has issued directions 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.

## ANNEXURE

[REFERENCE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 185 (Priority No. 5) DATED 12.03.2007 INDICATING STATE/UT WISE NUMBER OF BLOCKS/MANDALS/TALUKAS SHOWING DECLINING TREND IN GROUND WATER LEVELS]

S.No. State/UT Remarks

1. Andhra Pradesh Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 296 Mandals.

2. Delhi Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 7 Districts

3. Gujarat Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 43 Talukas

4. Haryana Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 66 Blocks

5. Karnataka Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 68 Talukas

6. Kerala Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 20 Blocks

7 Madhya Pradesh Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 29 Blocks

8. Maharashtra Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 8 Talukas

9. Punjab Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 108 Blocks

10. Rajasthan Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 190 Blocks

11. Tamil Nadu Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 175 Blocks

12. Uttar Pradesh Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 50 Blocks
13. Uttaranchal Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 2 Blocks
14. West Bengal Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 1 Block
- 15 Daman & Diu Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 1 Block
- 16 Pondicherry Declining trends observed in isolated pockets of 1 Block