

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3649  
ANSWERED ON:10.09.2007  
OVER EXPLOITATION OF SUB-SOIL WATER  
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to find out the possibility of exploitation of sub-soil water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas identified for the purpose;
- (c) the manner in which the said sub-soil water reserves are proposed to be optimally exploited; and
- (d) the steps taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, carries out ground water surveys and exploration for assessment, monitoring and management of ground water resources in the country. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by CGWB and States, out of 5723 assessment units (Blocks /Mandals/Talukas), 839 units are `over-exploited` (where stage of ground water exploitation is more than 100%) and 226 units are `critical` (where ground water exploitation is between 90% and 100%). Extensive and productive aquifers have been identified in alluvial areas occupying in major river basins in the country. Potential aquifers have also been demarcated in semi-consolidated formations like Gondwanas, Lathis, Tipams, Cuddalore Sandstones, etc. The consolidated formations which occupy almost two-third of the country especially in peninsular region and characterized by secondary porosity have limited ground water potential that are confined to weathered and fracture zones.

(c)&(d) `Water` being the State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take necessary steps for regulation of ground water development and management in their respective States. However, the CGWB provides technical assistance to the State Governments on assessment of the ground water resources. The CGWB has also prepared manuals, guidelines, etc., for use by the concerned agencies.