

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:37

ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007

DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL

Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the depletion rate of ground water in various States has been very alarming and the Union Government has received representations in this regard from various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has circulated any draft bill to States for adoption in this regard;
- (d) if so, the response of the States thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the depletion rate of ground water in the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.37 FOR REPLY ON 13.08.2007 REGARDING DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL

(a) & (b) Decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country in consultation with the State Governments. As per the latest assessments of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and States 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).

(c) In view of report of declining ground water table in certain areas of the country, the Ministry of Water Resources has drafted and circulated a `Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water` to all the States/UTs.

(d) So far, 10 States/Union Territories (UTs) namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal and UTs of Chandigarh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted legislation on ground water. Action in this regard has already been initiated by 19 States/UTs namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Assam, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, NCT of Delhi and UTs of Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Andaman & Nicobar. 6 States/UTs namely, Punjab, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh have taken a view that such legislation is not necessary for their States.

(e) `Water` being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take suitable action for arresting the declining ground water level in their respective States. However, based on the survey reports, some of the important measures taken by the Central Government for improvement of ground water level in the country are:-

- (i) Constitution of `Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Advisory Council` with the objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among various stakeholders.
- (ii) Preparation of `Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water` which has identified a total of 4.5 lakh sq.km. area in the country needing artificial recharge of ground water.
- (iii) Circulation of Manual/Guide on Artificial Recharge to 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.
- (iv) Implementation of 165 demonstrative recharge projects in various States under the Central Sector scheme on `Study of recharge to ground water` in IX Plan.
- (v) Implementation of a demonstrative scheme on `Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water` by the CGWB in identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) Implementation of 75 artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting studies by CGWB during XI Plan.
- (vii) Constitution of the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, notification of 43 Over-exploited areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management and notification of

65 Over- exploited areas in various States for registration of ground water abstraction structures.

(viii) Direction issued by the CGWA to 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.