

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:417

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005

AWARENESS OF WATER CONSERVATION

Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru;Yadav Shri Parasnath

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

- (a) whether water table in 286 districts in 18 States in India has depleted by 4 meters during the last two decades;
- (b) if so, the reasons for depletion in water table;
- (c) whether lack of awareness among people towards water conservation is one of the reasons for depletion of water table and crores of gallons of water go waste every day due to mismanagement in conservation of water;
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring awareness among the people; and
- (e) the steps likely to be taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to stop further depletion of water table and for conservation of water?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

(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.417 FOR REPLY ON 25.04.2005 REGARDING AWARENESS OF WATER CONSERVATION

Long-term analysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the last two decades (1985-2004) indicates decline in ground water level of more than 4 meters in some parts of 274 districts in 16 States. The main reasons for depletion in ground water table are rapid urbanization, increasing demand for agriculture, industrial and domestic purposes, change in cropping pattern, excessive withdrawal of ground water, poor rainfall etc. Lack of awareness among people towards water conservation is also one of the reasons for depletion of water table.

Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take steps to bring awareness among the people towards water conservation and also to take steps to stop further depletion of water table and for conservation of water. However, the following steps have also been taken by the Union Government in this regard:-

(i) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has been launched keeping in view the various target groups like youth and children, women, farmers and villagers, policy and opinion makers. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have been undertaken for the purpose.

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

(iii) With a view to create awareness among the people for water conservation and preservation of water, the Ministry of Water Resources and its other organizations organized various activities. Ministry of Water Resources has participated in many fairs, exhibitions etc., like India International Trade Fair- 2004 at Delhi, Kolkata Festival-2004 at Kolkata, MUNICIPALIKA- 2005 at Delhi and Tunneling Asia-2005 at Delhi etc. The Year 2003 was celebrated as Fresh Water Year all over India for creating awareness among the people. Similarly, World Water Day/Water Resources Day is also celebrated every year when stress on mass awareness among people for water conservation is given.

(iv) A scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 175 crores for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting for implementation during the remaining part of the X Five Year Plan is under consideration.

(v) 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.

(vi) 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.

(vii) States/UTs have been requested to provide water harvesting structures in buildings under their administrative control.

(viii) All the States/Union Territories have been requested for advising the local bodies in their respective States/Union Territories to allow rebate in property tax to persons, who adopt roof top rainwater harvesting in their premises.

(ix) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to around 1800 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(x) Launching of a website on Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting ([www.cgwb.net](http://www.cgwb.net)) to make aware and educate the public about various techniques of harvesting rainwater and store it for future use.

(xi) 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 and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.