

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1010
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009
STUDY ON GROUND WATER LEVEL
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian scientists alongwith foreign scientists have successfully conducted an aerial survey through satellite to assess the ground water level in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the findings of the survey;
- (c) the actual position of the ground water level in each State/Union Territory according to the survey; and
- (d) the action taken by the Central Ground water Board (CGWB) to maintain the ground water level?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) The findings of the Scientists from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and University of California, United States of America, published in the issue of scientific journal 'Nature' have indicated that groundwater is being depleted at a mean rate of 4.0 + 1.0 cm yr⁻¹ equivalent height of water (17.7 + 4.5 km³ yr⁻¹) over the Indian states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi).

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to maintain ground water levels in the country include:-

- # Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB in the country.
- # Implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells" for augmenting the ground water resources in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat & Madhya Pradesh.
- # Implementation of scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies. The objectives of the scheme cover augmentation of ground water recharge.
- # Implementation of Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices.
- # Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.
- # Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of regulation of ground water management and development in the country.
- # Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.
- # States have been advised for making rainwater harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.
- # Circulation of a Master Plan for artificial recharge of ground water to the States/UTs.
- # Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars & National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and artificial recharge through people's participation.