

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 19.11.2009**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**DEPLETION OF UNDERGROUND WATER .**

16

Shri Naresh Gujral

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the American researchers have conducted study and declared that the groundwater level in the Northern parts of India is alarming;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the factors responsible for steep fall in underground water in the Northern States in the country have been ascertained; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to maintain underground water levels in the country?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.16 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.11.2009 IN RAJYA SABHA REGARDING DEPLETION OF UNDERGROUND WATER

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<sup>-1</sup> equivalent height of water

(17.7 - 4.5 km<sup>3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>) over the Indian states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi). The studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have indicated that the withdrawal of ground water in excess of natural recharge has been responsible for depletion in ground water levels in various parts of the country including Northern States. The steps being taken by the Government to maintain underground 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.