

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
STUDY ON DECLINING GROUND WATER .

1070

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL

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

- (a) whether the National Geophysical Institute, Hyderabad has conducted any study on rapidly declining ground water table in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof, Statewise;
- (c) whether Government has implemented any programme to create awareness among the users for proper ground water utilization, exploitation and conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved as a result thereof; and
- (e) the other remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) The National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad has carried out a study in respect of an area of about 27 lakh sq. km including the mountainous regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan, Indus basin (Pakistan & India), Ganga basin (India & Nepal) and Ganga-Brahmaputra basin (India, Nepal & Bangladesh). The study aimed at estimation of ground water depletion in this area. The report based on the study published as “Dwindling Ground Water Resources in Northern India, from Satellite Gravity Observations” in the Geophysical Research Letters (Vol. 36), 2009 indicates that “the entire study area has lost groundwater at the rate of 54+9 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) including 25-30 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) lost from Indian territorial region between April, 2002 and June, 2008.

(c) & (d) The Government has implemented the following measures aimed at creating awareness among the users for proper ground water utilization, exploitation and conservation:-
?For promoting awareness and education among the stake holders in ground water sector, awareness programmes are organized under the Central Plan schemes “Ground Water Management & Regulation” and “Information Education and Communication (IEC)” of Ministry of Water Resources;
?Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP) aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices has been implemented during the period 2007-2010;
?State sector scheme on “Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwell’ for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States;
?“Demonstrative Projects for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting”;
?Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation ;
?Web Enabled Ground Water Information System (WEGWIS) for dissemination of ground water related information to all stakeholders including users.
?Organizing painting competition for school children on the theme of “Save water, every drop counts” by Ministry of Water Resources in association with Bureau of Energy Efficiency throughout the country for creating awareness on ground water related issues. 50 participants from each State were shortlisted for State Level Competitions held on 14th November, 2010. National level competition will be held on 21.01.2011

(e) The other remedial steps taken by the Government include: circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control of development and management of ground water, notification of 43 areas in 10 States/ UTs by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for regulation of ground water development, issuance of directions by CGWA to States having ‘over-exploited’ areas for taking necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and to also include mandatory provision for making construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures under the building bye-laws.