

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1533**  
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

**IMPACT OF DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL**

1533. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that decline in the ground water level has led to drinking water problems in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any concrete action plan in this regard and to harvest rain water so as to get rid of this problem; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining because of continuous withdrawal due to reasons such as increased demand of fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization & urbanization etc. As per assessment of Dynamic Ground Water Resources -2013, carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with State Governments, the net annual ground water availability in the Country is 411 BCM (billion cubic metre), whereas, annual ground water utilization is 253 BCM. Domestic and industrial sector accounts for approximately 10% (24.71 BCM) of the annual utilization..

It has been observed that there is a progressive reduction in availability of per capita availability of water in the Country. In 2001, the average annual per capita availability of water in the country was 1816 m<sup>3</sup>/year, which has reduced to 1545 m<sup>3</sup>/year in 2011. Further, projections for the year 2025 and 2050 are 1340 m<sup>3</sup>/year & 1140 m<sup>3</sup>/year respectively.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and rainwater harvesting / artificial recharge to ground water is primarily States' responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL [http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion\\_1.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_1.pdf).

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