

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †347
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

DEPLETION IN GROUND WATER LEVEL

†347. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR

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

- (a) the main reasons for fast depleting ground water level in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has constituted any committee and adopted any policy to prevent depleting ground water level during the last four years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the name of the committee working in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has constituted any committee for rain water harvesting also considering the water crisis; and
- (e) 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) 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.

(b) & (c) In order to ensure sustainable withdrawal and effective utilization of ground water and its management, an Inter Ministerial Committee has been constituted, the current tenure of which is till December, 2018. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR is the convener of the Committee which consists of Secretaries of Ministries of Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Panchayati Raj, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Environment & Forests and Climate Change.

Various issues related to groundwater depletion, low cost artificial recharge structures, protection of groundwater recharge zones, aquifer management plans and research and development initiatives in association with pioneer organizations / institutions in groundwater sector have been discussed by the Committee.

(d) & (e) Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has also constituted a Technical Expert Committee to compile a document related to success stories in water conservation and innovative and cost effective recharge techniques for replicating region specific interventions in different parts of the country.
