

Ground water level in Delhi

4183. SHRI N. K. SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level in several areas of Delhi has gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Action Plan that Government has prepared in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Ground water levels have declined mainly due to over-exploitation of ground water and reduced natural recharge to ground water due to urbanization. As per latest assessment of ground water resources carried out by Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources, jointly with the State Government of Delhi (as on 2009), out of 27 tehsils in 9 districts, 20 tehsils are over-exploited. List of over-exploited tehsils in NCT Delhi is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) 'Water' being a State subject, action plan to improve the situation is to be formulated by the State Government. The Government of Delhi has undertaken the following actions to check depletion of ground water:

- Entire NCT of Delhi has been notified for ground water regulation. No ground water extraction structure is permitted without prior permission of the concerned Deputy Commissioners.
- Amended Building Bye Laws to make roof top rain water harvesting mandatory for all new buildings located in plot area above 200 sq.m.
- Financial assistance is provided to beneficiaries for adopting rain water harvesting under Bhagidari scheme of Govt. Delhi.

Besides, these following measures are being undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board to promote rain water harvesting.

- Implementation of demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge for replication by the State Government.
- Implementation of IEC activities like mass awareness campaigns, training programmes, display of hoardings at prominent public places, release of booklets, participation in India International Trade Fair, painting competition among school children etc.

- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country. For enforcement of the regulatory directions issued under Section 5 of EPA, 1986, concerned Deputy Commissioners/District Collectors have been authorized to take necessary action in case of violations of directives of CGWA in notified areas.
- CGWA has directed large and medium Industries using ground water in the over exploited and critical areas in the country (except in the water logged areas) to take up water conservation measures including recharge of ground water/rain water harvesting and adopt practices of treatment, recycle and reuse of waste water in their premises.
- Directions have been issued to Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all the States/Union Territories and Ministry of Urban Development to take necessary action to adopt rain water harvesting/artificial recharge on all the Government buildings.

Statement*List of over-exploited tehsils in NCT Delhi (as on 2009)*

Sl.No.	District	Names of over-exploited Tehsils
1	2	3
1.	Central	Paharganj
2.		Karol Bagh
3.		Preet Vihar
4.	East	Vivek Vihar
5.		Chanakya Puri
6.	New Delhi	Parliament Street
7.		Kotwali
8.		Sadar Bazar
9.		Seema Puri
10.	North East	Shahdara

1	2	3
11.	North West	Model Town
12.		Saraswati Vihar
13.	South	Defence Colony
14.		Hauz Khas
15.		Kalka Ji
16.	South West	Delhi Cantonment
17.		Najafgarh
18.		Vasant Vihar
19.	West	Patel Nagar
20.		Rajouri Garden

Power project

†4184. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to review the several power projects viz. projects on Alaknanda, Mandakini, Yamuna, etc., which have become a potential threat to the existence of the Ganga river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): As per the information from Ministry of Power, the proposals of Hydro Power Projects are considered for environmental clearances, on case to case basis, as per the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification. The environmental clearance is given only after carrying out detailed EIA studies. There is no proposal by Ministry of Power to review such projects.

Potable water and irrigation

†4185. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government proposes to include the issue of river water in the Union List for the solution of the problems of potable water and irrigation by taking it seriously so that permanent solution to problems of needy people of the country regarding potable water and irrigation could be solved;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.