

Protection and preservation of small rivers

2321. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many small rivers in the country are under the threat of drying up permanently;
- (b) whether Government has taken steps to protect and preserve such rivers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Central Water Commission is observing Hydrological Parameters at 878 locations on major rivers and their tributaries all over the country. Analysis of the Hydrological data of last 10 years available with CWC does not indicate drying of any major river.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Decline in groundwater level

2322. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the study of the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) which reveals that groundwater in Hyderabad, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Chennai, along with several other northern cities are declining at a rapid pace during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons of decline and the number of cities which are almost bone dry;
- (c) what steps have been taken so far by the Ministry in this regard; and
- (d) what steps are being taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to trace new aquifers using airborne electromagnetic techniques in various parts of the country?