GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,

River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3520**

ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

**Loss of ground water**

3520. SHRI SANJAY SINGH

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the loss of 33 cubic km of under ground water in the North-Western Region of the country;

(b) whether Government is aware that there has been a loss of an alarming 109 cubic km of under ground water in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan region, State-wise; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to ensure that this loss has been provisioned for, year-wise?

**ANSWER**

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

(Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal)

(a) to (c) As per the study published in the journal ‘Nature’ in 2009, the net ground water loss over the Indian States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and Haryana during August, 2002 to October, 2008 has been estimated as 109 cubic km approximately. Another study published in 2009, in the journal ‘Geophysical Research Letters’ also indicates total ground water loss in the Indian portion of Indus, Ganga and Bramhaputra basins during April 2002 to June 2008 as 33 cubic km per year approximately.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources to ensure sustainability and availability are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. 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>.

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