

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4965
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2001
BOREWELLS POISONED IN KARNATAKA
GOWDAR MALLIKARJUNAPPA;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether borewells in many districts in Karnataka are being poisoned by a disease causing contaminant;
- (b) if so, whether the Central Ground Water Board has observed that the deadly pollutant nitrate has tainted groundwater and wells in many districts in the State;
- (c) if so, whether the nitrates have also polluted the canal command areas of the Ghata Prabha, Tungabhadra and Cauvery rivers;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the extent to which the steps have helped in checking the disease caused by the contaminated water ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

- (a) No disease causing contaminants have been observed to poison the bore-wells in Karnataka as per data available in the Central Ground Water Board.
- (b) Pollution to ground water due to high nitrate content in shallow ground water samples (dugwells) collected from network observation stations are observed as local contamination in isolated patches in parts of Karnataka. However, high nitrate content in ground water is not deadly poisonous.
- (c) High nitrate contents in ground water are observed/ reported in isolated patches in canal command areas of the Ghata Prabha, Tungabhadra and Cauvery rivers.
- (d) & (e) Provision of safe drinking water is planned, financed and implemented by the State Governments. The Central Ground Water Board provides technical services to the State Governments in this endeavour. Further, the Department of Drinking Water Supply in the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Urban Development extend financial and technical support to the State Governments in their efforts to supply safe drinking water, in such areas.

The Government of Karnataka has taken up water quality analysis of all sources in rural areas of Karnataka to ascertain the potability of drinking water. In order to mitigate the problem of drinking water and provide safe and potable water, water supply schemes under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission are taken up with surface sources such as rivers, canals, distributaries, minor irrigation tanks etc.