

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2261

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

POLLUTION IN GROUND WATER

Balram Shri P.;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey/performance audit on ground water pollution and its adverse effect on the human health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure pollution free ground water?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) undertakes monitoring of ground water regime on regional basis through a network of observation wells located throughout the country. Data generated by the CGWB during the course of ground water regime monitoring and various scientific studies have revealed the occurrences of fluoride, arsenic, iron etc., beyond the permissible limit of drinking water standards (BIS 10500). The details are annexed.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), during 2002-2006, conducted assessment of ground water quality in metro cities with a view to ascertain groundwater quality with reference to pollution. Ground water samples were collected from twenty five different locations from each metro city and were analyzed for physico-chemical and bacteriological parameters as per the Drinking Water Standards of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and World Health Organization (WHO).

Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) conducted assessment of impact of onsite sanitation systems on ground water and surface water quality. The study was conducted through National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) in 10 cities of five States. The report was published in May, 2005.

Following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure pollution free ground water:

- (i) The CGWB has conducted ground water exploration and field studies in ground water contaminated areas to ascertain the extent of contamination and delineation of contaminant free aquifers in the affected areas. Suitable well designs including utilization of cement sealing techniques have been evolved for construction of fresh water tubewells. Successful tubewells are being handed over to the concerned state agencies for utilization in their water supply schemes.
- (ii) Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) by Central Government for the purposes of regulation and control of ground water management and development.
- (iii) Technical and financial assistance by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Department of Drinking Water Supply (DWS) to the States under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement the efforts of the States.
- (iv) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken measures such as directing the industries through State Pollution Control Board to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards, setting up of networks of ambient water quality monitoring stations, initiation of schemes for providing assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of schemes for monitoring water quality in critically polluted areas.