

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6367
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
RATIONALISATION OF GROUND WATER CHARGES
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any rate for use of ground water for various purposes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the expert Committee set up for rationalization of these rates has given its recommendations;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Ministry of Water Resources has not fixed rates for use of ground water for various purposes. However, the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977 provides for the levy and collection of a cess on water consumed by persons carrying on certain industries and by local authorities, with a view to augment the resources of the Central Board and the State Boards for the prevention and control of water pollution constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. As per Schedule II of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act of 1977, differential rates of cess are charged depending upon the use of water. Further, water charges are also levied in respect of water supply from State owned tubewells for agriculture purposes by some of the States, the rates varying from State to State and from crop to crop.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Water Resources has not constituted any expert committee for "Rationalization of Rates for Use of Ground Water for Various Purposes".