

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2886

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010

INDISCRIMINATE USE OF GROUND WATER

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Balram Shri P.; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao; Ponnampal Shri Prabhakar; Pratapsinh Shri Chauhan Prabhatsinh; Reddy Shri Komatireddy Raj Gopal; Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar; Siricilla Shri Rajaiah; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ground water is being used indiscriminately for commercial purposes resulting in lowering of water level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the norms laid down by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) in this regard and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those who have violated these norms;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact a Central Legislation for prevention of over-extraction of ground water and imposition of cess on use of electricity for extracting ground water; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken for the management of ground water?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported that decline in ground water levels in an area is a cumulative effect of ground water withdrawal for all purposes including domestic, industrial as well as agricultural sectors. As per assessment carried out by CGWB in association with the State Ground Water Departments, the share of agriculture in total ground water used in the country is 92%. Remaining 8% is used in domestic and industrial sectors.

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is regulating withdrawal of ground water by new industries/projects in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas. The CGWA has issued guidelines for withdrawal of ground water in these areas and requested the State Governments to implement these guidelines. They have 'notified' 43 areas for regulation of ground water development and decentralized their regulatory powers to district level authorities for grant of permission for extraction of ground water for drinking and domestic use in these areas. Complaints of violations of norms in notified areas are referred to the Authorised officers for taking actions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) & (d): No, Madam. However, the Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill on Regulation and Control of the Development and Management of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories for enactment of suitable legislation on the lines of the Model Bill. The ground water legislation has been enacted by 11 States/Union Territories viz. Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Pondicherry, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. 18 States/UTs are in the process of enactment of legislation. Remaining States/UTs have also been requested to enact similar legislation.