

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2972

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010

FUNDS FOR PREVENTION OF POLLUTION IN GROUND WATER

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assistance is provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for combating ground water pollution; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds granted to various States during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to combat ground water pollution. The Ministry of Water Resources does not provide financial assistance to the States for tackling ground water quality problems. However, the Union Government has taken following measures and provided assistance to mitigate the problem of ground water pollution:-

(i) Drilling arsenic free wells by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in the arsenic affected areas and providing technical guidance for clearing of source of drinking water in arsenic affected areas.

(ii) Organisation of mass awareness programmes in ground water quality affected areas.

(iii) Providing financial and technical assistance by the Union Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement the efforts of the States for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms. Under NRDWP, the States are competent to plan, sanction and implement rural water supply schemes. Under the programme to address the water quality problem, 20% of the annual NRDWP funds will be allocated for tackling water quality problems to enable rural communities to have access to potable drinking water.

(iv) To ensure safe drinking water supply to all the urban population of the country, the Ministry of Urban Development has launched two new programmes, viz. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT).

(v) Directions issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to limit the discharge of effluents within the stipulated standards and setting up of network of water quality monitoring stations and common effluent treatment plants.