

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:678  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011  
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT  
Singh Shri Ravneet

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any mechanism has been developed for the treatment/purification of contaminated groundwater in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far for the purification of groundwater in the Malwa Region of Punjab;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to involve NGOs, Self-Help Groups (SHG), Local Bodies and Panchayats in the management, including conservation, purification of groundwater projects; and
- (d) the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Remedial measures for treatment/ purification of contaminated ground water are adopted by the State Governments. Ground water after pumping is subjected to various treatment techniques, depending upon the contaminants present like Reverse Osmosis for removal of salts, defluoridation plants for removal of fluoride, arsenic removal plants etc. The treatment techniques are generally based on adsorption, ion exchange or precipitation-coagulation processes. As per information received from the Govt. of Punjab, the State has provided Reverse Osmosis Plants where Total Dissolved Solids, Fluoride and Uranium etc. have been found in excess in the tubewells based rural water supply schemes of Malwa Region. A total of 317 R.O. Plants have already been installed at a cost of Rs. 34.38 crore.

(c) to (d) Since 'Water' is a State subject, the decision to involve NGOs, SHGs, Local Bodies and Panchayats in management including conservation and purification of ground water is taken by the State Governments. In order to encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) /Gram Panchayats/ Urban Local Bodies/ Institutions/Corporate Sector and Individuals for adopting innovative practices of ground water augmentation by rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge, promoting water use efficiency, recycling & re-use of water and creating awareness through people's participation, Ministry of Water Resources has instituted Ground Water Augmentation Awards & National Water Award. In total, there are 20 Ground Water Augmentation Awards for six categories consisting of Rs. 1 lakh and a plaque with citation and one National Water Award consisting of a cash award of Rs. 10 lakh and a plaque with citation.