

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2906
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011
DISCIPLINED EXPLOITATION OF WATER
Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any policy has been formulated by the Government to find out the possibility of disciplined exploitation of sub-soil water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas identified for the purpose; and
- (c) the manner in which the said subsoil water reserves are proposed to be optimally exploited?

Answer

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

(a) The National Water Policy adopted by the Government in 2002 lays emphasis on regulation of exploitation of ground water resources so as not to exceed the recharging possibilities and need for effective prevention of detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water. The policy further stresses that over-exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet water aquifers.

(b) Assessment of replenishable ground water resources was carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations (as on 2004) and a total of 839 assessment units (blocks/ mandals/ talukas) have been categorized as over-exploited. State-wise details of over-exploited assessment units are given in Annexure I.

(c) For optimal exploitation of ground water resources, Ministry of Water Resources has circulated to the States/ Union Territories the Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water. The bill provides for checking of ground water exploitation by State Ground Water Authority in over-exploited areas. Further, Central Ground Water Authority, constituted by the Government under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 has notified 43 areas in different States for regulation of ground water development.