

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5780

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

EXPLOITATION OF GROUNDWATER BY SOFT DRINK COMPANIES

Bais Shri Ramesh;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cold drink manufacturing and water bottling units are harvesting water resources in the country much beyond the permissible limit;
- (b) whether the Government has done any monitoring of the excessive exploitation of water by these companies; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Government to contain the indiscriminate exploitation of water resources by the above-said companies?

Answer

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

- (a) The licensing authorities for cold drink manufacturing and water bottling plants are Pollution Control Boards, Bureau of Indian Standards and in some States Directorate of Industries, which refer the proposals for new industries/ projects falling in over-exploited/ critical/ semi-critical areas to Central Ground Water Authority(CGWA) for obtaining No Objection Certificate for withdrawal of ground water. CGWA examines these proposals and issues NOC for ground water withdrawal as per guidelines framed for the purpose. No such report of industrial units, to whom NOC has been issued, drawing ground water beyond permissible limit has been received from the licensing authorities.
- (b) Site inspection of industries to whom, NOC has been issued, is carried out by the multidisciplinary team constituted by the Regional Offices of Central Ground Water Board to ensure compliance to the conditions given in the NOC.
- (c) All industries including cold drink manufacturing and bottling units which are new or under expansion and ground water based are to obtain NOC from Central Ground Water Authority. CGWA has notified 82 areas in the country, where construction of new abstraction structures is not permitted without prior approval. In such areas, NOC for setting up of water based industries/ soft drink bottling plants is not granted.