

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3266
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
MISUSE OF SUBSIDISED ELECTRICITY
Tandon Annu

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering direct cash transfers in lieu of electric subsidy so that profigate use of tube-wells resulting in rapidly depleting groundwater resources could be controlled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any study on the impact of groundwater level due to the excessive use of tube-wells as a result of the availability of subsidised electricity to farmers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b): No, Madam.

(c) & (d): Planning Commission had constituted an Expert Group on "Ground Water Management and Ownership" in the year 2005 to take stock of ground water situation in the country, identify reasons for fall in ground water levels in certain parts of the country and suggest measures to tackle ground water management problem. The Committee in its report has observed that while huge electricity subsidy may have contributed to depletion of ground water, a cut in subsidies could have only marginal positive impact on extraction. The report further states that a long term strategy that links extent of subsidy with the reliability and duration of power supply can have positive results for both groundwater management and viability of power sector.