

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5960
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
CONTAMINATION OF GROUNDWATER
Tewari Shri Manish

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of groundwater polluted due to industrial wastes and pesticides, State-wise and the trends in this regard;
- (b) the year-wise targets for decontamination of groundwater for the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the percentage-wise decline in the level of groundwater across the country, State-wise;
- (d) the regional rate of depletion of groundwater, State-wise;
- (e) the absolute volume of water in Northern Indian aquifers;
- (f) whether data with respect to total groundwater reserves in the country have been mapped by use of any technology; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) As per information received, Central Pollution Control Board does not specifically monitor water quality due to discharge of industrial and domestic effluents. However, CPCB regularly monitors water quality from 2000 stations including 595 ground water quality monitoring stations in respect of criteria pollutants such as pH, Conductivity, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Nitrate, Total Coliform Bacteria etc. State wise status of percentage violation of ground water quality is given in Annexure I.

(b) 'Water' is a state subject therefore, water supply agencies in the States are primarily responsible for treatment of contaminated ground water. However, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme(NRDWP). Upto 65% of the funds under NRDWP can be used by the States for addressing water quality problems.

(c) & (d) The analysis of long term water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board for the period May 2001 – May, 2011 has indicated that 46% of the observation wells monitored throughout the country have registered declining trend in ground water levels and the remaining 54 % of the wells have registered rising trend. State wise details are given in Annexure-II.

(e) As per last assessment of ground water resources(as on 2004) carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organisations, the total annual replenishable resource in the shallow aquifers of North Indian States (Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand) has been estimated as 115 billion cubic metres (bcm). Keeping 10bcm for natural discharge, the net annual ground water availability is estimated as 105bcm.

(f) to (g) Scientific techniques like hydrogeological mapping supported by remote sensing and geophysical tools are available to know about the availability of ground water. Exploratory drilling is carried out to delineate promising aquifer zones. Utilizing information generated through these activities, Central Ground Water Board has prepared and published Hydrogeological Map of India on 1 : 2,000,000 scale, which depicts yield potential of different hydrogeological formations. As on 2004, annual replenishable ground water resources of the country have been assessed as 433 bcm.