

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:305
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
DECREASING GROUND WATER LEVEL
Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ground water level is falling down due to coal mining in several parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to extend the contract period for maintenance of small trees by the State forest agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any directions have been issued to the Coal India Limited and its ancillary companies in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): No, Sir. However, lowering of ground water level due to coal mining is a temporary phenomenon and is limited to the radius of influence of the mine working. The hydro geological studies show that the zone of influence is limited to 0.20 Kilometer to 0.70 Kilometer from the mine which generally falls within the mine lease hold area and water levels are not affected beyond this.

(b): Various measures being taken to arrest falling of ground water level due to coal mining include the following:

Periodic monitoring of local water levels close to mine areas and identification of effected areas, if any;

Artificial recharge measures by adopting rain water harvesting;

Measures to recycle the treated mine water and other treated effluents;

wherever possible the treated mine water is recycled for industrial and colony needs;

The mines discharge after treatment are discharged in to nalas and for irrigation and other uses of the adjoining villages.

(c) to (f): Government has not proposed extension of the contract period for maintenance of small trees by the State Forest Agencies. However, the Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided to extend the contract period of maintenance of small trees by state forest agencies from three years to five years.