

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3658
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2012
REGULATIONS FOR TAPPING UNDERGROUND WATER
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any rules and regulations for tapping underground water for the business of selling packaged water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has submitted any report on the general use of water and its commercial utilization;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to take any steps to curb the selling of water at arbitrary prices; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has circulated the list of Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical assessment units to the State Pollution Control Boards, BIS and Ministry of Environment & Forests which refer the proposals for new industries including packaged drinking water industries/ projects falling in these areas to CGWA for obtaining no objection certificate for withdrawal of ground water. The proposals are evaluated based on site specific technical studies and guidelines laid by the Authority which include pre-conditions of mandatory adoption of rain water harvesting system, monitoring of ground water abstraction as well as monitoring of ground water level and quality, etc. by the industry/ project. CGWA has also notified 82 areas (Districts, Blocks, Mandals, Talukas, Municipal areas, etc.) in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. In these notified areas, installation of new ground water abstraction structures is not permitted without prior specific approval of the Authorized officers. For enforcement of the regulatory directions issued under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors have been authorized to take necessary action in case of violations of directives of CGWA in the notified areas.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) & (e) Do not arise.