

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4426
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
MISUSE OF GROUNDWATER
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether annual fresh water withdrawal for agricultural use is very high in comparison with industrial and domestic use of water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is no regulation of groundwater extraction and no coordination among competing users and inadequate and sub-optimal pricing is promoting the misuse of groundwater; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to spread awareness among the State Governments on the issue?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per ground water resource assessment carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations, as on 2009, annual ground water withdrawal for irrigation has been estimated as 221 billion cubic metres (bcm) while that for domestic and industrial uses as 22 bcm. State wise details of ground water extraction for irrigation and domestic & industrial uses are given in Annexure I.

(c) The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address at the inaugural ceremony of India Water Week held recently in New Delhi, had indicated that there is no regulation of ground water extraction and no coordination among competing uses. He had also indicated that sub-optimal pricing of both power and water was promoting the misuse of ground water.

(d) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated to the States/ Union Territories the Model Bill to Regulate and Control the Development and Management of Ground Water to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation. So far eleven States/ UTs namely Andhra Pradesh,

Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Puducherry have enacted ground water legislation. Matter is being actively pursued with other States. Government of Delhi is regulating ground water development in all the districts of Delhi. Government of Gujarat through a resolution vide reference No. GWR/1095/6/1.1/Ja-1 dated 19.9.2001 has constituted Gujarat Ground Water Authority under the administrative control of Narmada and Water Resources Authority for systematic administration of ground water management, its development, control and regulation. Government of Punjab has taken steps to encourage crop diversification, artificial recharge of ground water, controlled and regulated electricity supply in critical area, micro-irrigation and alteration of crop calendar – encouraging late sowing of paddy after 16th June, etc.

Further, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 has notified 82 areas 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 EPA, 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.