

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5646
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
DEEP TUBEWELLS IN SALINE AND HILLY REGIONS
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether one sophisticated rig for deep drilling in saline and hilly region costs more than one crore;
- (b) if so, the modality in supply of such rigs to the States in hilly and saline belt of the country;
- (c) whether drilling of such tubewells in these areas has become frequent and time consuming too; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) As salinity in ground water is generally observed in alluvial terrain, where direct mud rotary rig is required and in hilly terrain Down The Hole Hammer (DTH) rig is required for drilling. The new rigs cost more than One crore.
- (b) Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources does not supply rigs to the States. The Board under its Ground Water Exploration Programme carries out exploratory drilling throughout the country including saline and hilly areas through its Regional Offices by deploying suitable rigs.
- (c) & (d) Priority for exploration is being accorded to areas having problems of water quality and hydrogeologically complex areas. While constructing tubewells in saline belt, aquifer zones containing saline water are to be sealed to prevent mixing of poor quality water with fresh water. In hilly areas, drilling is time consuming due to presence of loose/ bouldery formations.