

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5654
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012
RADIOACTIVE GAS IN GROUNDWATER
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any tests to check the high concentrations of radioactive gas radon in groundwater;
- (b) if so, the State-wise results of the said tests; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board has conducted tests to check for the presence of radioactive gas radon in ground water in various parts of cities of Bangalore and Mysore in Karnataka. A total of 30 samples were collected from different parts of Bangalore city. High radon content exceeding 11.1 Becquerel per litre as prescribed by BIS was observed in all the samples. Radon content in all the samples collected from Mysore city was found to be within permissible limit. No such tests have been carried out by Central Ground Water Board in other States.

(c) Radon contamination is geogenic in nature. Radon above permissible limit is generally present in freshly pumped water. However, radon gas (with a half life of 3.8 days only) escapes to the atmosphere on exposure. Radon concentration changes significantly on abstraction, aeration, storage and boiling. Central Ground Water Board had conducted a National Workshop on "Radon contamination in ground water and application of isotopes in ground water studies" during March, 2010 at Bangalore. The workshop was aimed at creating awareness on health hazards due to radon and other radioactive isotopes in ground water.