

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1118
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012
STUDY ON GROUNDWATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study on the quantity of groundwater extracted and its quality across the country as on date;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether private water agencies are allowed to extract groundwater;
- (d) if so, the mandatory provisions to be followed and cess to be paid by the private agencies;
- (e) whether there is any Government mechanism available to monitor the quality of groundwater extracted by private water agencies; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and its findings so far?

Answer

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

(a) Replenishable ground water resources including quantum of their extraction for various uses across the country is periodically assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations. Quality of ground water is regularly monitored on regional scale through a network of 15653 observation wells located in different parts of the country. Samples of ground water are collected during the month of April/ May every year for chemical analysis. Ground water samples are also collected during the course of various scientific analysis

(b) As per assessment of ground water resources carried out recently as on 2009, annual ground water extraction for the entire country has been estimated as 243 bcm per year including 221 bcm for irrigation and 22 bcm for domestic and industrial uses. The state-wise details of availability and extraction of ground water resources are given in Annexure I.

As per ground water quality data generated during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring conducted by Central Ground Water Board ground water in various States is contaminated by Salinity, Fluoride, Iron, Arsenic, Nitrate and heavy metals like Lead, Chromium, Cadmium etc. State-wise details of districts affected by ground water contamination are given in Annexure II.

(c) Private agencies are allowed to extract ground water for industrial/ infrastructure development purposes after obtaining NOC from Central Ground Water Authority. NOC is issued by the Authority after evaluation of the proposals based on guidelines stipulated for the purpose. However, no NOC is granted in areas notified by the Authority.

(d) Following mandatory provisions are to be followed by industries/ infrastructure projects as pre-conditions for extraction of ground water.

Installation of water meters and monitoring of ground water abstraction.

Monitoring of ground water quality, twice a year during pre-monsoon and post monsoon period.

Implementation of ground water recharge measures for augmenting ground water resources.

Monitoring of ground water regime in and around project area.

Proper recycling and reuse of waste water after adequate treatment.

No cess is levied by Central Ground Water Authority. However, as per Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1978, cess, if any, on industries is levied by the respective State Governments.

(e) & (f) CGWB does not have any specific mechanism to monitor the quality of ground water extracted by the private agencies.