

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1006
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012
COMPANIES ENGAGED IN EXPLOITATION OF WATER
Rajbhar Shri Ramashankar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the companies dealing with water business are exploiting natural resources like rivers, lakes and waterfalls for their own benefit;
- (b) if so, whether a big population is being deprived of pure drinking water on account of over- exploitation of ground water; and
- (c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The State Governments consider the requests of the companies dealing with water business and grant permission to use water. Such permissions are normally granted after accounting for drinking water requirement and availability of ground water resources.

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.