

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1923

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

BOREWELLS AS A CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.;Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben;Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Raghavendra Shri B. Y.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any punitive action against the erring contractors/landowners who dig borewells and leave them open;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. 'Water' being a State subject, punitive action, against the erring contractors/ landowners are taken by the concerned State agencies. The Honourable Supreme Court has issued directives in the year 2010 to Chief Secretaries/ Administrators of all the States/ Union Territories to adopt certain measures such as registration of drilling agencies capping the wells properly, erection of signboards and fencing, filling of pits and channels after completion of drilling operation, filling of abandoned wells by clay/ sand/ boulders/ pebbles etc. Further, the landowners before taking up any construction works must inform to the concerned authorities. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that in rural areas, monitoring and execution should be done by Panchayati Raj Institutions and in urban areas by the Municipal Corporations/ Public Health Departments.

(c) In view of above, question doesn't arise.