

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1980

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

EXPLOITATION OF GROUNDWATER

Gorakhnath Shri ;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to check the expanding business of water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total quantity of water being used in the business of bottled drinking water each year;
- (d) whether any research report has pointed out that this business is gradually leading to corporatization of water;

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified 82 areas (Districts, Blocks, Mandals, Talukas, Municipalities) for regulation of ground water development. In these areas, installation of new ground water abstraction structures is not permitted without prior specific approval of the Authority / Authorized officer.

Moreover, proposals for setting up/ expansion of ground water based industries including bottled water manufacturing units are forwarded by State Pollution Control Boards and Bureau of Indian Standards to CGWA for seeking No Objection Certificate (NOC) for ground water withdrawal. NOC is not accorded to such industries including bottled water manufacturing units proposed to be located in areas notified by the Authority. In non- notified areas, NOC is issued with mandatory pre-conditions of 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. 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.

(c) Ministry of Water Resources has not carried out any study regarding total quantity of water being used in the business of bottled water. Central Ground Water Authority has issued NOC to 115 packaged drinking water / soft drink units permitting maximum quantity of ground water withdrawal of 19142.67 m³ /day.

(d) Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of any research report which points out that bottled drinking water business is leading to corporatization of water.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) In areas notified by the Central Ground Water Authority, Chief Officer-in-Charge of Revenue in the district (District Collectors/ Deputy Commissioners/ District Magistrate) has been appointed as the Authorized Officers to take up various regulatory measures in notified areas. As per information available, details of action taken against violations in some districts during the last three years are given below:

S.No. State No. of violations reported Action taken by the DC
during last three years

1. Haryana Gurgaon - 338 Action taken as per provision of the law
Mahendragarh - 1
2. Rajasthan Complaints were received DC has constituted 8 teams to check the borewells.
from parts of notified blocks The checking teams are authorized to seal the borewells.
of Jaipur district

As per information received from State Ground Water Authority, Govt. of West Bengal, 24 cases of violations have been reported during the current year. District Magistrate of the district is empowered to cease the installed pump/ cancel the registration etc. in the case of violation.

