

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3077

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012

MANDATE OF CGWB

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Siddeswara Shri Gowdar  
Mallikarjunappa; Yadav Shri Dharmendra; Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether 85 per cent of rural population of the country uses ground water for drinking and domestic purposes;
- (b) if so, whether the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) monitors quality in their network of 15600 odd wells countrywide but the agency has no mandate to control pollution or to supply water;
- (c) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (d) whether use of contaminated water is a serious public health issue as ground water is used without any kind of treatment;
- (e) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide mandate to Central Ground Water Board to control quality of ground water; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken by the Central Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

- (a) As per report of the Expert Group on "Ground Water Management and Ownership" (2007) brought out by the Planning Commission, 85% of rural water supply programme depends on ground water as the source.
- (b) & (c) Central Ground Water Board monitors ground water quality on regional basis through a network of around 15600 observation wells. Powers to control pollution are not vested with the Board. Mandate of water supply has not been given to Central Ground Water Board.
- (d) & (e) Use of contaminated water without any treatment may lead to serious health issues. Quality of drinking water sources is monitored by the drinking water supply agencies in States, who are responsible to provide safe drinking water and adopt suitable remedial measures in areas having contaminated ground water. There is no proposal to provide mandate to monitor ground water quality of drinking water sources to Central Ground Water Board.
- (f) In view of above, question doesn't arise.