

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3089

ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012

QUALITY OF GROUNDWATER IN METROS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that a recent study conducted by Central Ground Water Board from all over Delhi has revealed that 56 per cent of the groundwater was not fit for drinking and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that only 76 per cent groundwater was found suitable for irrigation in NCR and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding groundwater quality in Mumbai and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of various projects undertaken by the Government to clean/ filter the polluted groundwater in Mumbai in the last eight years; and
- (e) the amount earmarked for Mumbai under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under Ministry of Water Resources has carried out a study under which 124 samples were collected during May, 2010 from shallow tubewells located in different parts of NCT of Delhi. This study has indicated that about 46% of the well waters are of moderate to safe quality and can be used for drinking purposes. The rest of samples from shallow tubewells collected are contaminated with salinity, nitrate fluoride, etc.

(b) As indicated by the study, out of 124 samples from shallow tubewells collected from NCT Delhi, 76% of samples are suitable for irrigation on well drained soils for growing salt tolerant crops. It has been observed that at a few places Electrical Conductivity is beyond 5000 micro Siemens/cm, Sodium Adsorption Ratio is more than 10 and Residual Sodium Carbonate is more than 2.5 Milliequivalents Per Litre (mEq/litre), which renders such waters not suitable for irrigation.

(c) CGWB has been carrying out ground water quality monitoring on regional basis in Mumbai. During 2010-11, ground water samples were collected from industrial areas of Dombivali, Navi Mumbai and Chembur. The analyses of samples have revealed ground water pollution in all the three industrial clusters with higher values of pH, total hardness, nitrate, manganese and lead in some of the samples. In May 2012, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) has appointed Ground Water Surveys and Development Agency of State Government for study of adverse effects on ground water due to large extraction of water through dug wells and tube wells. In the first phase of this work, pilot studies for Chembur and Goregaon areas of Mumbai has taken up. Time period prescribed for this study is two years and the total cost for the same is Rs.28,96,000/-.

(d) 'Water' being a state subject, action for cleaning/ filtering polluted ground water are undertaken by the water supply agencies in the respective States. However, as per information received from Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), no such project has been undertaken by them during the last eight years.

(e) As per information received from MCGM, no amount had been earmarked for such schemes except during 2009-10, when they had undertaken extensive programme of cleaning and recharge of wells, constructing tubewells, dug wells etc. in order to use ground water as supplementary source during situation of water crisis. An expenditure of Rs. 35 crore was incurred for the purpose.