

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3180
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
CHECKING ILLEGAL BOREWELLS
Dhurve Jyoti;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal borewells which are the main reason for depleting ground water level upto the critical stage all over the country; and

(b) the punitive measures taken therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated to the States/ Union Territories the Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under Ministry of Water Resources has notified 82 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development, where construction of new wells is banned without prior approval of the Authority/ Authorized Officer. In such areas, construction of new tubewells is allowed for drinking and domestic purpose only.

CGWA in exercise of powers under section 4 of Environment Protection Act, 1986 has appointed Officer-in-Charge of revenue district (District Collectors/ Deputy Commissioners/ District Magistrate) as Authorized Officers to take up various regulatory measures in Notified Areas including actions against illegal drilling.

Any borewell which is drilled in areas notified by the Central Ground Water Authority or State Ground Water Authorities in States, where ground water legislation has been enacted, without prior approval of the Authority/ Authorized Officer is illegal.

Further, for new industries using ground water as raw material/ infrastructure projects in the country seeking "No Objection Certificate" from the Central Ground Water Authority is a pre-requisite before getting license from the concerned State agency. These proposals are evaluated based on site specific technical studies and NOC is issued as per guidelines laid by Central Ground Water Authority for the purpose. NOC is not granted to any industry/ infrastructure project in notified areas.

(b) In case of violations in notified areas, suitable punitive measures like stopping of drilling, sealing of tubewells, seizure of related equipment and machinery used for boring, launching of prosecution against offenders etc. are undertaken by the Authorized Officers. As per reports received from the respective Deputy Commissioners, 22 illegal tubewells in Nazafgarh and 1 in VasantVihar, Delhi have been sealed. Suitable punitive action has been taken by the Deputy Commissioner in case of 338 violations in Gurgaon district, Haryana during the last three years. In Mahendragarh District of Haryana, one tubewell has been sealed. In Jaipur District of Rajasthan, the Deputy Commissioner has constituted 8 teams to check the borewells. The checking teams are empowered to seal unauthorized borewells.