

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1669
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012
ILLEGAL BORE WELLS
Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh;Sule Supriya

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of death of innocent children due to fall in bore wells pitches across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the Government/ private bore wells which caused death of children and the action taken against the accused during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal boring of wells in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (c): There have been some reported incidents of death of innocent children due to fall in bore wells across the country.

As per information provided by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), data on death of innocent children due to fall in bore wells is not maintained by NCRB.

As per information provided by Central Ground Water Board information on accidents caused due to open bore wells in various states is not maintained centrally. However, as per the information obtained by the Board from the State Governments, no such incidents have been reported in respect of bore wells drilled by Government agencies.

As per Seventh Schedule, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution, and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and children.

The 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 owner of land/premises, before taking any steps for constructing borewell / tubewell must inform in writing in advance to the concerned authorities in the area in this regard. The Supreme Court has also directed that in rural areas, monitoring of the safety status of the borewells / tubewells drilled should be done through village sarpanch and the executive from the Agriculture department and in urban areas through Junior Engineer and the executive from the concerned department of Groundwater/ Health/ Municipal Corporation etc.