

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3447
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
CONTAMINATION OF GROUND WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per recent study conducted by Central Ground Water Board from all over Maharashtra a moderately high percentage of the ground water is not fit for drinking as well as for irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any projects to clean/filter the polluted ground water in Maharashtra during the last three years so as to provide drinking water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the funds earmarked for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the other corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources conducts water quality monitoring annually for chemical analysis of groundwater samples. In the study carried out during 2010-11, in the State of Maharashtra, it was found that 40% of the samples had Nitrate in excess of maximum permissible limit of 45 mg/litre, 6% of the samples showed Total Hardness above maximum permissible limit of 600 mg/litre (as CaCO₃) and less than 1% of the samples had Fluoride above maximum permissible limit of 1.5 mg/ litre as per drinking water standards (Bureau of Indian Standards). The Residual Sodium Carbonate values, which indicate the suitability of groundwater for irrigation purposes, were also higher than the recommended values of 2.5 milliequivalents per litre for 6.5% of the samples.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that 20% of the allocated funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are earmarked for water quality problems. Further, it is indicated that the States may utilize upto 67% of funds released under NRDWP for improving water quality of ground and surface water. The details provided by the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation with regard to funds earmarked for the State of Maharashtra during the last three years and current year are given below:

Year Funds earmarked
(Rs. in crore)

2009-10	652.43
2010-11	733.27
2011-12	728.35
2012-13	783.66

(e) Since in situ treatment of polluted aquifers is difficult, remedial measures are concentrated on providing alternate sources of water supply. The CGWB assists in identifying aquifers which are free from contaminants.