

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2822
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013
POLICY ON GROUNDWATER EXPLOITATION
Bajwa Shri Partap Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any specific policy regarding groundwater exploitation and contamination;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government maintains updated data on groundwater exploitation and contamination; and
- (d) if so, State/UT-wise data thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a)&(b) Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a Model Bill to regulate and control groundwater development and management in the Country. The Model Bill has been circulated by the Ministry to all the States/ Union Territories for enactment. So far 14 States/ UTs namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, UTs of Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have enacted the legislation. The responsibility to protect ground water from contamination lies primarily with the States concerned. For protection of ground water from contamination, Government of India have also taken various steps including constitution of Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA). Besides, reports on ground water and Surface water pollution hotspots are uploaded to WQAA website for public use.

(c)&(d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors groundwater levels on regional scale through a network of 15653 observation wells located throughout the Country. Water levels are monitored four times in a year during the months of January, April/ May, August and November. The latest assessment of exploitation of groundwater resources has been carried out, jointly by CGWB and the respective State Governments, as on 2009. As per the assessment, the annual replenishable groundwater resources are estimated at 431 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and annual groundwater withdrawal has been estimated as 243 BCM. The State-wise withdrawal and availability of replenishable ground water resources is given in Annexure-I. CGWB also monitors ground water quality of shallow aquifers on regional scale once every year during April / May through a network of 10714 observation wells located throughout the Country. State wise details of districts affected with ground water contamination is given in Annexure-II.