

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2967

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

EXTRACTION OF GROUNDWATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set any norms for extraction of water by mineral water plants and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether these norms are being complied by these plants and if not, the action taken by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government is taking steps to minimize misuse of groundwater by regulating use of electricity for its extraction and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has taken cognizance of reports stating that exploitation of groundwater can lead to earthquake like situation and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) the details of areas that have been notified for regulation of groundwater development and management by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA); State-wise;
- (f) the details of heavy industries situated in regions that have depleting groundwater resources, State-wise and the results achieved in the above areas in recharging the groundwater levels; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Union Government to frame new groundwater laws in the country to prevent misuse of groundwater?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has fixed norms for withdrawal of ground water by industries using water as raw material including mineral water plants. Norms fixed by CGWA for extraction of ground water are below:

Category of area as per ground water withdrawal limit
water resource assessment (2009)

Safe Withdrawal limited to 200% of ground water recharge

Semi-critical Withdrawal limited to 100% of ground water recharge

Critical Withdrawal limited to 50% of ground water recharge

Over-exploited and Notified Areas Permission is not granted.

Under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors concerned have been authorized to take necessary action in case of violations of directives of CGWA in the notified areas. In addition, random inspections by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, are carried out to check that the industries using ground water as raw material are complying with the conditions laid down in the NOC granted to such industries by CGWA.

(c) Measures for minimizing misuse of ground water by regulating use of electricity for its extraction are required to be undertaken by

the concerned State Governments.

(d) A study titled "The 2011 Lorca earthquake slip distribution controlled by groundwater crustal unloading" published in Nature Geoscience suggests that the earthquake in Lorca, southern Spain, in May 2011 was triggered by groundwater extraction. However, the evidence necessitates further research for corroboration of occurrence of such future events near dams, aquifers and melting glaciers, where tectonic faults are found close to the sources.

(e) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified 162 areas in the country for regulation of ground water development and management. State wise details are given in Annexure.

(f) 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. Analysis of groundwater level data for the pre-monsoon period (April/May) during the last five years (2007-2012) indicates that 55% of the wells analysed have registered declining trend. However, the details of heavy industries located in depleting ground water areas are not maintained.

(g) 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 of groundwater legislation. So far 14 States / UTs have enacted the legislation.