

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:508
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013
COMMERCIALISATION OF WATER SUPPLY
Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water supply has been commercialised by several industrialists in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of major companies engaged in this work at present;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make any legislation to ban reckless exploitation of groundwater in the urban and rural areas by these companies in view of the receding water table day by day; and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 508 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 2.5.2013 REGARDING COMMERCIALISATION OF WATER SUPPLY.

(a) & (b) Several industries are using surface water as well as ground water for commercial purposes as well as for their use after obtaining necessary permissions in respect of surface water from the concerned State Governments / Local Bodies and in respect of ground water from State Ground Water Authority and Central Ground Water Authority. Details in respect of agencies engaged in water supply are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) & (d) The Central Government is concerned about exploitation of ground water, and directions are issued by the Central Ground Water Authority to the State Governments for regulation, control and development of ground water from time to time. Ministry of Water Resources has also circulated the Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories to regulate and control the development and management of ground water in the State including urban and rural areas in view of declining ground water levels. So far, fourteen (14) States / UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Assam, Dadra and Nagar Haveli have modified the Model Bill as per their requirement and enacted the legislation. Fifteen (15) States / UTs, namely, Andaman & Nicobar, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have initiated action for enactment of the Model Bill. The Government of Maharashtra has enacted Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purposes), Act 1993. The Government of Maharashtra has also introduced and passed a Comprehensive Ground Water Bill in the Legislative Assembly to regulate and manage ground water resources in the State. States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have indicated that the ground water development in their States is low and thus they do not feel the need to enact the law.

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country and is headed by the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

CGWB periodically carries out ground water assessment of the country. Based on this assessment, the areas are categorised into Safe, Semi-critical, Critical and Over-Exploited categories. The latter is the most water stressed area. Considering the severity of the exploitation and in order to restrict further exploitation of ground water, some of these highly over-exploited areas are declared as 'Notified' for regulation of ground water withdrawal. CGWA so far has notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development. Regulation of Ground Water development in these 'Notified' areas is through district administrative heads assisted by Advisory Committees under the provisions of Section 4 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.