

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3048
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
ILLEGAL BORING OF TUBEWELLS
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Green Tribunal (NGT) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has rapped Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on tubewells;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a State-wise survey to check illegal boring and maintain groundwater level in Delhi and other parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the work plan chalked out therefor;
- (e) the penal action proposed against the area officials and owners of illegal boring; and
- (f) if not, the other preventive measures proposed in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) As per information available with the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, a case has been filed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) by National Green Tribunal Bar Association in which Delhi Jal Board(DJB) is one of the respondents, inter-alia, on the issue of authorized / unauthorized borewells and tubewells in Delhi.

(c) & (d) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has appointed Officers-in-Charge of Revenue District (District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates) as Authorized Officers to take up various regulatory measures in Notified Areas including regular checking against illegal boring. Besides, CGWA carries out random inspection for ascertaining the compliance of conditions in 'No Objection Certificate' issued for ground water abstraction to industries, individuals and infrastructure projects.

(e) For enforcement of the regulatory directions issued by CGWA under Section 5 of Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1986, concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors/ District Magistrates have been authorized to take necessary penal action such as seizure of bore wells and/or action against owners of illegal boring. Penal action can be initiated by the Authorized Officers as per the provisions of Section 15 to 21 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(f) In view of reply to the Part (e) above, question does not arise.