

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3055
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
DECLINE IN GROUND WATER IN MAHARASHTRA
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) there has been a decline in ground water level in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the CGWB has issued specific guidelines for withdrawal of ground water;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken by Maharashtra in compliance of the said guidelines?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources carries out ground water monitoring, four times a year, through a network of 15653 wells in the Country including the State of Maharashtra. Ground water monitoring data of CGWB in respect of Ahmednagar district for pre-monsoon 2013, compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2003-2012), indicates that of the 27 wells analysed there was a rise in water level in respect of 48% of the wells and fall in 52%.

(c) & (d) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has prescribed guidelines/ criteria for evaluation of proposals/ requests for groundwater abstraction in the Country. Permission to abstract ground water through any energized means is not accorded for any purpose other than drinking and domestic use in the notified areas. In non-notified area, CGWA accords "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" for withdrawal of ground water to new or expansion of industrial/ infrastructure projects based on guidelines/ criteria fixed for evaluation of such projects. NOC for industries is accorded with the condition to take recharge measures, mandatory recycling and re-use of water depending upon the category of ground water development of the area. In notified areas, no NOC is accorded for water intensive industries or industries using ground water as raw material. NOC for Infrastructure projects is accorded subject to recharge of runoff from entire project area. The norms fixed by CGWA for extraction of ground water industries using water as raw material are as below:

Category of Area As Per Ground 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.