

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3123
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2013
RADON IN GROUNDWATER .
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any tests to check the high concentration of radioactive gas Radon in groundwater;
- (b) if so, the State/UT-wise result thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board(CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources has conducted tests to check the presence of radioactive gas Radon in groundwater only in parts of Karnataka State. A total of 80 samples were collected from different districts viz. Bangalore city (30), Mysore (4), Chamrajnagar (7) and Tumkur (39). High radon content exceeding 11.1 Becquerel per litre as per maximum permissible limit of US Environmental Protection Agency (1991), was observed in all the samples from Bangalore city, while 36 samples in Tumkur district and one sample from Chamrajnagar district recorded high radon content. Radon content in all the samples collected from Mysore city was found to be within permissible limit. No such tests have been carried out by CGWB in any other State of the Country.

(c) Radon contamination, geogenic in nature, above permissible limit is generally present in freshly pumped water. However, radon gas (with a half life of 3.8 days only) escapes to the atmosphere on exposure. Radon concentration changes significantly on abstraction, aeration, storage and boiling. CGWB had conducted a National Workshop on "Radon contamination in groundwater and application of isotopes in groundwater studies" during March, 2010 at Bangalore with a view to creating awareness on health hazards due to Radon and other radioactive isotopes in groundwater.

A report entitled "Radon in bore wells of Tumkur district" was published in August, 2012 by CGWB.