

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3247

ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014

OPEN BORE WELLS

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**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of deaths of innocent children due to fall in bore wells and pitches in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the bore wells drilled by Government agencies and private bodies which caused the deaths of children and the action taken against the guilty along with the compensation paid in such cases during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has issued any directive to the Union and the State Governments in the year 2010, in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union and the State Governments thereto; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Union Government to check illegal drilling of bore wells in future?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a) to (b) As per "Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India" report, a total number of 175, 192 and 194 children (age upto 14 years) died due to fall into pit/ manhole etc. during 2010, 2011 and 2012 respectively. Specific data on fall in bore wells and pitches is not available. The persons in the age group upto 14 years have been considered as children. State/UT wise number of children (age upto 14 years) died due to fall into pit/ manhole etc. during 2010-2012 is enclosed at Annexure. The information regarding action taken against the guilty along with the compensation paid in such cases are not maintained.

(c) to (d) The Supreme Court has issued directives in the year 2010 to Chief Secretaries /Administrators of all the States/Union Territories to adopt certain measures such as registration of drilling agencies, capping the wells properly, erection of signboards and fencing, filling of pits and channels after completion of drilling operation, filling of abandoned wells by clay/ sand/ boulders/ pebbles etc, Further, the owner of land/premises, before taking any steps for constructing borewell/ tubewell must inform in writing in advance to the concerned authorities in the area in this regard. The Supreme Court has also directed that in rural areas, monitoring of the safety status of the borewells / tube wells drilled should be done through village Sarpanch and the Executive from the Agriculture Department and in urban areas through Junior Engineer and the Executive from the concerned Department of Groundwater/ Health/ Municipal Corporation etc.

(e) As per Seventh Schedule of the Constitution 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including crimes against children, lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. However, the Union Government attaches highest importance to the matter of prevention and control of crime against women and children.