

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3556
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
CGWB REPORT ON GROUND WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the report of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) titled `Ground Water in Urban Environment of India` published recently has cautioned about the falling level of ground water and water getting polluted in various States of the country including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of information regarding the ground water getting polluted due to industrialization in the cities of the country and excessive use of pesticides in a farming during the last one decade;
- (d) the names of areas in the country including National Capital Region which have been put in the list of dark zones with regard to underground water;
- (e) the conditions for the use of ground water in such places at present and whether any shortcoming has come to light in implementing the same; and
- (f) if so, whether the Government proposes to formulate rules under which new guidelines will be issued for the use of ground water and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) The report namely "Ground Water in Urban Environment of India" published in year 2000 had cautioned about the depletion in ground water level and deterioration in ground water quality in major cities of the Country including Delhi. The report suggests that depletion of ground water levels may result into reduction in yield from wells; increase in cost of ground water abstraction; changes in surface water & ground water relationship; land subsidence etc. It also suggested that ground water pollution may alter total dissolved solids, nitrate, heavy metals, organic hydrocarbons etc. Bacteriological contamination due to improper well design as well as seepages from service areas, drains, workshops and leaching from solid waste, storage dumps etc. may make the water unfit for consumption. City-wise details of ground water level and quality as indicated in report are given at Annexure I.

(C) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) had carried out water quality studies in 66 of 88 industrial clusters, as identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The studies indicated that in most of the cases excess concentration of few chemical constituents beyond norms prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) are present. Details of the studies are given at Annexure-II. CGWB has undertaken special studies on ground water pollution due to excessive use of fertilizers/pesticides in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. In these studies pesticides like isomers of Hexa Chlorocyclo Hexine (HCH), metabolites of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT), chlorpyrifos, aldrin, atrazine, aldicarb, carbofuran etc. were analysed. These pesticides were found within permissible limits prescribed by Prevention of Food & Adulteration Act, 2004 and European Economic Community, 1988 in Andhra Pradesh. However, at two locations in Barabanki block of Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh, higher concentrations of HCH was observed. Higher concentration of DDT/HCH/ chlorpyrifos/ aldrin was observed in few samples at few locations in Chamkour Sahib Block, Ropar District, Punjab.

(d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Governments have jointly estimated replenishable ground water resources of the Country. As per the latest assessment (as on March 2009), 802 assessment units in 14 States and 2 UTs have been categorized as 'Over-Exploited' including 76 assessment units in National Capital Region(NCR). The list of 'Over-Exploited' assessment units is given at Annexure-III.

(e) & (f) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Section 3(3) of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has imposed conditions for use of ground water through guidelines/criteria for evaluation of proposals for groundwater abstraction in the Country. CGWA has notified 162 Blocks/Talukas/Areas for regulation of ground water development in the Country, wherein, permission to construct new bore wells is not granted, and authorized officers accord permission only for drinking and domestic purpose. In non-notified areas, CGWA accords "No Objection Certificate (NOC)" for withdrawal of ground water to new and expansion of industrial/infrastructure/mining projects based on guidelines/ criteria fixed for evaluation of such projects. Summary of criteria/guidelines for issuance of NOC are given in Annexure-IV. Regulations are being enforced through the concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors and in cases of reported violations/ shortcomings in implementation of directives of CGWA, the concerned Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors have been authorized to take necessary action as per the provisions of Section

