

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4340

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

POLLUTION IN GROUND WATER BY FERTILIZERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to 'State of Environment Report-India 2009' fertilizers used for agriculture are polluting ground water to a large extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to check the ground water from being polluted by fertilizers and other hazardous substances; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) & (b) According to 'State of Environment Report-India 2009' the rapid increase in agro-chemical use in the past five decades, has contributed significantly to the pollution of both surface and groundwater resources. As per information received from Central Ground Water Board, high concentration of nitrate in ground water has been observed at some locations (Annexure). Excessive use of fertilizers has been stated to be one of the major causes of high nitrate concentration in the ground water.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Agriculture has schemes aimed at checking the ground water pollution by fertilizers and other hazardous substances. Under "National Project on Management on Soil Health & Fertility (NPMSF)", there is a provision for setting up of soil testing laboratories to promote balanced use of fertilizers. The Ministry also supports "Integrated Pest Management" under the Scheme ' Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India' for control of pest with judicious use of pesticides.

Annexure

STATUS OF NITRATE POLLUTION IN GROUND WATER

S.No.	States	Number of affected districts
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1.	Andhra Pradesh	23
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2.	Bihar	8
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3.	Chhattisgarh	12
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4.	Delhi	7
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5. Goa 1

6. Gujarat 22

7. Haryana 19

8. Himachal Pradesh 1

9. Jammu & Kashmir 2

10. Jharkhand 11

11. Karnataka 23

12. Kerala 11

13. Madhya Pradesh 46

14. Maharashtra 29

15. Orissa 28

16. Punjab 17

17. Rajasthan 34

18. Tamil Nadu 27

19. Uttar Pradesh 43

20. Uttarakhand 3

21. West Bengal 2