

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:515  
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015  
PALAR RIVER  
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the 1000 odd tanneries along the banks of Palar river in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu have caused or cause environmental pollution and pollution of under- ground water resources rendering it unfit for either human consumption or for irrigation;
- (b) if so, whether the groundwater in Palar river basin subjected to chemical tests by various agencies revealed that the groundwater needs special attention;
- (c) if so, whether as many as fifty villages in the Palar river basin and Ambur Town are deprived of drinking water and face acute water shortage;
- (d) if so, whether the Government will ensure that the restorative steps to make the water potable and irrigable are taken immediately and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken steps to desalinate the underground water in these affected areas so as to provide relief to these affected villages facing acute drinking water problem and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
(PROF.SANWAR LAL JAT)

- (a) Yes, the tanneries along the bank of Palar river in Vellore district, Tamilnadu have caused groundwater pollution. As per the study carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), about 42% of the well sampled shows TDS values more than the permissible limit of 2000mg/l as pres- cribed by Bureau of Indian standard (IS:10500).
- (b) Yes, as per the report prepared by CGWB, the groundwater in Palar region needs special attention.
- (c) As per the information received from Tamilnadu Water and Drainage (TWAD) Board, the infiltration wells near Masigam in river Malattar (a tributary of Palar) serve as a source for water supply scheme to Ambur Municipality and adjoining villages. The water quality is potable as per the drinking water standards. The other adjacent villages around the municipality are provided with individual power pump schemes and the quality of water source is potable. Another Combined Water Supply Schemes (CWSS) for Kailasagiri and five other habitations in Pernambut area nearer to the Ambur Municipality is provided with potable water from river Malattar.
- (d) To abate tannery pollution related problems, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has formulated Common Effluent Treat- ment Plants (CETPs) within the tannery areas. Also, the copy of detailed report on the study carried out by CGWB in Palar basin (Industrial Cluster study) has been sent to concerned departments of Govt. of Tamil Nadu for further needful action.
- (e) With respect to Vellore district, the Tamil Nadu Government is implementing a major CWSS to bring surface water from river Cauvery. The scheme is in advance stage and expected to be completed before May, 2015, which will mitigate water supply related issues of Vellore district.