

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1745
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
Ground Water Extraction by Soft Drink Companies
Girri Shri Maheish

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

- (a) whether the ground water used by companies including soft drink companies for commercial purpose is chargeable and if so, the details thereof along with the charges levied by each State;
- (b) whether soft drink companies get special rates and if so, the details thereof and reasons for the same;
- (c) the quantum of ground water used by soft drink companies during the last three years, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has a mechanism to monitor and check excessive use of ground water by these companies and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether such companies have been found violating the norms of ground water extraction and if so, the details thereof and the action the Government has taken against the violators of norms?

Answer

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Industries are covered under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, where water cess is charged by the State Governments as per rate given in Schedule-II of the Act. The details are given at Annexure - I. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) does not charge for ground water usage by companies including soft drink companies.

(c) & (d) During the last three years, CGWA has accorded 'No Objection Certificate (NOC)' for withdrawal of ground water to soft drink companies to the tune of 9,68,193 cubic meter per year during 2012-13; 14,82,600 cubic meter per year during 2013-14; 3,37,500 cubic meter per year during 2014-15. State-wise details and quantum of water allowed for extraction during last three years is given in Annexure-II.

CGWA has fixed norms for withdrawal of ground water by industries using ground water as raw material/water intensive industries like packaged drinking water, mineral water, soft drink manufacturing industries etc. The existing norms fixed by CGWA for such industries for extraction of ground water are at Annexure-III.

Under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Deputy Commissioners/ District Collectors concerned have been authorized to take necessary action in case of violations of directives of CGWA in the notified areas. Besides, State Ground Water Authorities (SGWAs) have also been constituted in some States, which also accord NOC for ground water extraction related activities. Details of NOCs accorded by SGWAs are not maintained centrally.

(e) Three complaints have been received against M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages for their units located at Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh in the year 2013-14 & 2014-15. The complaints were forwarded to the concerned State Government for investigation and action for violations.
