

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:673
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
CLOSURE OF CGWB OFFICES
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any office of Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in any part of the country has been closed during the last one year or thereafter;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has evolved any mechanism to prevent the unlimited ground water wastage; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. However, keeping in view the reduced workload at Central Ground Water Board's (CGWB) State Unit Office (SUO) at Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh) due to opening of new Regional Office at Dehradun (Uttaranchal), the SUO, Bareilly has been relocated at Ranchi (Jharkhand) for ground water surveys and exploration in the newly created State of Jharkhand. Now the work of SUO, Bareilly is being taken care by the Regional Office, Lucknow and Divisional Office located at Bareilly itself.

(c)&(d) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to evolve mechanism to prevent the unlimited ground water wastage. However, the Union Government has taken following steps to check further over-exploitation of ground water resources in the country:-

The Union Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill in the year 1970, which was re-circulated in 1992 and again in 1996 to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. A revised Model Bill, 2005 to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been again circulated to all the States/Union Territories.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified 11 critical areas on consideration of over-exploitation of ground water resources and 32 over-exploited areas for registration of ground water structures.

CGWA is regulating withdrawal of ground water by industries/projects. List of critical areas has been circulated to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Ministry of Environment & Forests which refer the new industries/projects to CGWA for obtaining permission.