

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3741
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
SAND MINING IN RIVER BEDS .
Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ground water table in all the geographical regions in the country is depleting;
- (b) if so, the major causes attributed to the unprecedented depletion of ground water;
- (c) whether there is any norm/rule pertaining to the mining of sand on the river beds;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the other steps the Government proposes to take to control the menace?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Ground water levels are periodically monitored by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) as well as State Ground Water Organizations. Lowering of ground water levels has been observed in some places in the country. The main reasons for decline in ground water levels have been rapid pace of urbanization resulting in reduced natural recharge to aquifers, change in cropping pattern, excessive withdrawal of ground water etc.

(c)to (e) Sand being a minor mineral, mining of sand is a State subject. There is no Central norm/rule pertaining to mining of sand on the river beds. However, some States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Kerala have laid some restrictions on sand mining from the river beds.