

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3585  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006  
ACT FOR DIGGING OF TUBE WELLS AND MECHANIZED WELLS  
Jagannath Dr. M.

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether lopsided increase in ground water for irrigation has created ecological imbalance in the past many years;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact the Act for introducing license system for digging of deep tube wells and mechanized wells; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, during the years 1995-2004, indicates decline in ground water levels in some parts of various States/Union Territories in the country. The main reasons for decline in ground water level are rapid pace of urbanization, increasing demand for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes, change in cropping pattern, excessive withdrawals of ground water, poor rainfall etc. The over-exploitation of ground water at certain places has also led to increased salinity in ground water due to upcoming of saline water in the inland areas and due to sea water ingress in coastal areas.

(b)&(c) 'Water' being a State subject, suitable legislation for regulating the drawl of ground water has to be enacted by the State Governments/Union Territories. The Central Government has, however, circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water to all State Governments/Union Territories in 1970 and re- circulated it in 1992, 1996 and again in 2005 for adoption. So far, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have enacted and implemented the ground water legislation. Many other States/UTs are also in the process of enacting the legislation in this regard.