

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1663
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2006
CONFERENCE ON GROUND WATER
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Second International Conference on 'Ground Water for Sustainable Development Problems, Perspectives and Challenges' was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the quality of ground water is deteriorating in the country; and
- (d) if so, the strategies formulated to check such contamination in ground water?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions during the conference were centered around the following subjects:-

Sustainable water resource assessment

Recharge processes and artificial recharge

Water and environment

Modeling and its application in soft and hard rock aquifer systems

Arsenic and fluoride in ground water

Management aspects of ground water

Deliberations of this conference brought out the need to provide safe drinking water to rural areas based on the recent developments, to involve International Society to address common problems in developing countries in ground water pollution and seek viable solutions to provide safe drinking water, to develop sustainable strategy to protect contamination of ground water in rural areas and urgent need for conservation, augmentation and regulation of precious ground water resource, to evolve holistic

approach to address the increasingly complex ground water pollution problems, to provide safe drinking water and ensure its sustainable development. It also brought out the need of continuance of such event including the expansion in new interdisciplinary areas such as health aspects, engineering and geochemical solutions, novel approaches and social dimensions.

(c) As per available information, ground water in major parts of the country is by and large potable. There are, however, areas which have poor quality of ground water mainly due to contamination from ground water bearing rocks, excessive use of fertilizers, industrial and domestic effluents, mining wastes, saline water ingress etc.

(d) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to take steps to check contamination of ground water. However, the Union Government have also taken following measures in this regard:-

(i) The Central Government has set-up Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to regulate and control ground water management and development.

(ii) Mass awareness and education programme have been launched on the significance of water economy, efficient utilization, health, hygiene and sanitation.

(iii) The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, under the Ministry of Rural Development, has also been assisting and guiding the States in the provision of safe drinking water to the rural population under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In quality affected areas, where ground water is unfit for drinking, the safe drinking water is supplied either through alternative sources, tapping surface water or by other means by undertaking remedial measures like de-fluoridation, iron removal and

arsenic removal.

(iv) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), under the Ministry of Environment & Forests, has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent within the stipulated standards, initiation of scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.