

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:274
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
NATIONAL WATER POLICY
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the expert groups set up by the Government on uniform national water policy and to protect its reckless use have given their recommendations to the Government from time to time;
- (b) If so, the details in this regard;
- (c) Whether a model bill has been recently circulated to the States for setting up water regulatory mechanism;
- (d) If so, the response of the State Governments on this bill; and
- (e) The details of other concrete steps taken to check exploitation of groundwater ?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.274 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 11.12.2006 REGARDING NATIONAL WATER POLICY.

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources has not set up Experts Groups on uniform national water policy and to protect its reckless use.

b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Water being a state subject, the schemes for development and management of water resources including those for ground water are taken up by State Governments. Similarly, the steps to check exploitation of ground water are also undertaken by the respective State Governments. However, with a view to encourage and assist the State Governments in this regard, the Ministry of Water Resources has undertaken the following measures :

(i) A draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been circulated to the States and Union Territories. The Union Minister of Water Resources in his letter dated 11.9.2006 addressed to the Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territories, has appealed to the State Governments to enact ground water legislation for checking over-exploitation of ground water.

(ii) Central Ground Water Authority has issued directions to all the Chief Secretaries of States having over-exploited blocks to take all necessary measures to promote rain water harvesting for artificial recharge to ground water falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

(iii) The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted an Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources with the main objective to popularize the concept of artificial recharge to ground water among all stakeholders.