

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2738
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006
CHARGES ON EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Union Government has received any request for developing a consensus on levying cess on exploitation of ground water in the country ;
- (b) If so, the details thereof ;
- (c) Whether the Government has circulated the said proposal to concerned agencies ;
- (d) If so, the details thereof ;
- (e) The reaction of the States and other concerned agencies to the said proposal ;
- (f) Whether an expert group headed by Member of Planning Commission has been set up to give recommendations on ground water policy and to include ground water on the Concurrent List; and
- (g) If so, the details thereof; and
- (h) The time by which the recommendations of the group are likely to be received ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)to(e) Do not arise.

(f)&(g) As per information made available by the Planning Commission, an Expert Group Chaired by Member (Energy & Water), Planning Commission, has been set up to review the issue of ground water ownership in the country. The Terms of Reference to the Expert Group are as follows:-

- (i) To take stock of the groundwater situation in the country in regard to availability, present use and projected demand;
- (ii) To identify reasons for fall in groundwater levels in certain parts of the country;
- (iii) To review the efficacy of groundwater recharge schemes implemented so far;
- (iv) To study the effectiveness of legislation where enacted;
- (v) To review the present legal position regarding groundwater ownership, and suggest modifications keeping in view the international practices;
- (vi)To suggest other measures to tackle the groundwater management problem; and
- (vii) Any other issue the Group may consider relevant.
- (h)The recommendations of the Group are yet to be received by the Planning Commission.