GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
SUB -SOIL WATER
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale salinisation of sub-soil water is taking place in the various coastal and even in interior areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the impact of this salinisation of sub-soil water on availability of potable water in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect sub-soil water?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.379 FOR REPLY ON 18.12.2006 REGARDING SUB-SOIL WATER

(a)to(c) Studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, have indicated problem of salinity in ground water is of two types viz. inland salinity and salinity in coastal aquifers. Inland salinity is caused due to various hydrogeological reasons and in some areas due to water logging in canal commands. In coastal aquifers, salinity in ground water is caused due to excessive withdrawals of ground water which leads to sea water intrusion.

Inland salinity in ground water has been noticed in parts of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Salinity in coastal aquifers has been noticed in parts of the States/UTs of Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman & Nicobar, Diu and Pondicherry.

The State-wise details of areas affected by inland salinity and salinity in coastal aquifers are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively.

(d) `Water` being a State subject, action to protect the sub-soil water is to be taken by the States/UTs. The steps taken by various States/UTs to protect sub-soil water are given in Annexure-III. However, the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard are given below:-

Based on studies conducted a report on Inland Ground Water Salinity in India has been brought out by CGWB.

CGWB is promoting implementation of artificial recharge measures in areas affected with inland salinity in ground water.

In areas where fresh water aquifers overlie saline aquifers, regulatory measures are taken to control over-development of ground water. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has notified Southwest district of Delhi to avoid upconing of saline ground water. The Authority has also notified Northwest, Northeast and West districts for registration of existing ground water abstraction structures.

To control sea water intrusion, CGWA has notified the Union Territory of Diu and Haldia area of East Medinipur district of West Bengal.

Under the Central Sector scheme of Artificial Recharge to Ground Water implemented during IX Plan, construction of tidal regulators and desilting of creeks was taken up in Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri districts of Orissa. Similarly in Kerala, tidal regulators and percolation ponds were constructed to arrest saline water inflow and to recharge aquifers.

In Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the high waves during Tsunami inundated open wells in low lying coastal tracts leading to salinity. CGWB had provided assistance to the UT Government by pumping saline water from the contaminated wells.

In the National Water Policy, 2002, provision has been made for preparation of a comprehensive coastal land management plan by

the coastal States, keeping in view the environmental and ecological impacts and regulation of development activities.