

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3978

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

POLLUTION BY COLD DRINK COMPANIES

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether hazardous chemicals of soft drink factories are caused health problems, environment degradation, ruining crops and decrease in soil quality in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that these soft drink making factories are extracting precious ground water without any limit and creating Dark Zones all over;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has fixed standards for them in the Environment Protection Act, 1986;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the action Government has taken so far against these factories?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) &(b) No cases of such adverse effects of soft drink factories have come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) The studies carried out by Central Ground Water Board reveal that agriculture is the predominant user of ground water. As per the latest assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations, the withdrawal of groundwater for domestic and industrial uses together is about 8% of the total ground water extraction while the remaining 92 % of ground water withdrawal is for irrigation.

(d)to(f) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has prepared guidelines for extraction of ground water by industries / projects (including soft drink factories) falling in different category areas in the country. All new industries / projects and also those under expansion are required to obtain prior approval of CGWA before extraction of ground water. CGWA has notified 43 areas in different parts of the country, where commercial extraction of ground water by new industries / projects is not permitted. Deputy Commissioners / District Magistrates of these notified areas have been authorized by the Authority to take suitable action against the violators, if any.