

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *251
ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018

WATER CONSERVATION FEE

*251. SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO
SHRI SUMAN BALKA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any criteria has been fixed to determine the water conservation fee;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether draft guidelines for ground water extraction are likely to destroy ground water life line as the district and State level entities may not understand the implication of giving No Objection Certificates for the purpose, if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by all sectors to ensure sustainability of ground water resources?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION, ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS AND SHIPPING

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *251 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018 IN THE LOK SABHA REGARDING “WATER CONSERVATION FEE” ASKED BY SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO AND SHRI SUMAN BALKA, HON’BLE MPs :

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. In the draft guidelines for ground water extraction framed by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), it is proposed to levy a water conservation fee for issuance of ‘No Objection Certificate (NOC)’ for ground water abstraction. The rates of water conservation fee have been proposed based on the quantum of ground water abstracted, category of ground water assessment unit and use of ground water. The draft guidelines have been circulated to all States / UTs and uploaded on the website of this Ministry and CGWA. The details of rates proposed are given in **Annexure.**

(c) The draft guidelines are intended to further streamline the current application process and will lead to strengthening of States’ role in ground water conservation and management. Implementation of these guidelines will lead to sustainable management of ground water. Also, 13 States/ Union Territories are already regulating ground water development through Ground Water Act or through Government Orders. Further, trainings / workshops shall be held for the capacity building of officers authorized to issue NOCs. State Level Advisory Committees will have representative from the respective Regional Offices of the Central Ground Water Board.

(d) Other steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/writereaddata/GW_Depletion.pdf .

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of Starred Q.No.*251 to be answered on 04.01.2018 in the Lok Sabha regarding “Water Conservation Fee”

Water Conservation Fee

Rates of water conservation fee are based on the quantum of ground water abstracted, category of ground water assessment unit and use of ground water. The following rates of water conservation fee are proposed :

I. Drinking & Domestic Use

Government infrastructure projects, Government water supply agencies and Group Housing Societies/ private housing societies with only basic amenities will be exempted from paying Water Conservation Fee. All other users covered under Infrastructure projects will be required to pay the same at the rate of Rs. 0.30 per m³/day (0.30 x quantum x 365).

II. Packaged drinking water/ mineral water/ soft drinks/ breweries/ distilleries

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Rate of Water Conservation Fee (Rs. per m ³ /day)			
		< 500 m ³ /day	500 to <1000 m ³ /day	1000 to <5000 m ³ /day	5000 m ³ /day and above
1.	Safe	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
2.	Semi-critical	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30
3.	Critical	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40
4.	Over-exploited	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50

II. Other Industries

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Rate of Water Conservation Fee(Rs. per m ³ /day)			
		< 500 m ³ /day	500 to <1000 m ³ /day	1000 to <5000 m ³ /day	5000 m ³ /day and above
1.	Safe	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00
2.	Semi-critical	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10
3.	Critical	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.20
4.	Over-exploited	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30

III. Mining/ Infrastructure Dewatering Projects

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Rate of Water Conservation Fee (Rs. per m ³ /day)			
		< 500 m ³ /day	500 to <1000 m ³ /day	1000 to <5000 m ³ /day	5000 m ³ /day and above
1.	Safe	1.50	1.70	1.90	2.00
2.	Semi-critical	2.00	2.20	2.40	3.00
3.	Critical	3.00	3.30	3.60	4.00
4.	Over-exploited	4.00	4.50	5.00	6.00

Government mining projects will be exempted from paying ‘Water Conservation Fee’.