

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *84
ANSWERED ON 08.02.2018

WATER CONSERVATION FEE

*84. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK
 SHRI SATAV RAJEEV

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

- (a) whether the Government has come out with draft guidelines which stipulate that the existing and new industries, infrastructure and mining projects have to obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from district and State level authorities for drawing ground water and if so, the details thereof along with the objectives behind the move;
- (b) whether comments have been sought from States and Union Territories on these guidelines and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the draft also proposes to levy a new water conservation fee and if so, the details thereof along with the criteria fixed for determining the said fee; and
- (d) whether these guidelines are likely to further destroy our ground water life line as the district and State level entities may not understand the implication of giving NOCs and if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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. *84 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 08.02.2018 REGARDING “WATER CONSERVATION FEE” ASKED BY SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK AND SHRI SATAV RAJEEV,M.Ps

(a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has prepared draft guidelines which stipulates existing & new industries, infrastructure & mining projects etc. to obtain ‘No Objection Certificate (NOC)’. The draft guidelines, inter-alia, include Pan India coverage and decentralization of NOC issuing authority including State and district level authorities. Details of authorities from whom the industries, infrastructure and mining projects etc., will have to obtain NOC are given at **Annexure – I**

The draft guidelines have been circulated to all stakeholders including States and Union Territories for comments, which shall be examined by an expert committee.

In the draft guidelines framed by 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. Details of rates proposed are given at **Annexure - II**.

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.

Other steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_1.pdf.

ANNEXURE - I

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Starred Q.No. *84 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 08.02.2018 regarding “Water Conservation Fee”

Quantum of ground water abstraction		Authorized Officer / Organization
Safe and Semi-Critical Assessment units	Critical and Over-exploited	
Up to 50 m ³ / day except those proposing to tap saline aquifers	Up to 20 m ³ / day except those proposing to tap saline aquifers	District magistrate/ Deputy Commissioner
> 50 - 500 m ³ / day Upto 500 m ³ / day for those tapping saline aquifers	>20-200 m ³ / day Upto 200 m ³ / day for those tapping saline aquifers	State Ground Water Authority / State Nodal Agency
>500 m ³ / day	>200 m ³ / day	Central Ground Water Authority
All cases pertaining to mining and infrastructure dewatering		Central Ground Water Authority

ANNEXURE - II

Annexure referred in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Starred Q.No. *84 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 08.02.2018 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. 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
