

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4243
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2020

CLOSURE OF UNUSED BORE WELLS

4243. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to close down unused bore wells in the country;
- (b) the total number of applications received by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) asking for permission to dig bore well during the last two years, especially from the State of Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) Law and Order being a State subject, initiatives/actions on closing down unused bore-wells in the Country is primarily States' responsibility.

Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court has laid down stringent safety guidelines for suitable preventive actions to avoid unattended bore-wells vide their Orders dated 11 Feb 2010 and 06 Aug 2010.

In addition, Ministry has also advised the States/UTs for strict implementation of laid down safety guidelines as issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) & (c) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the 'Environment (Protection) Act, 1986' for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. CGWA grants 'No Objection Certificates' (NOC) for ground water abstraction in 23 States/UTs through guidelines which are modified from time to time.

Further, 20,078 applications (from 23 States/UTs being regulated by CGWA) have been received by CGWA for grant of 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) to abstract ground water during the period 15.03.2018 to 16.03.2020.

In Andhra Pradesh, the ground water regulation is being done by the State Government except for Mining projects which is done by CGWA. In addition, during the last two years, only 2 applications have been received by CGWA for grant of NOC to abstract ground water in the State of Andhra Pradesh for Mining Projects.
