

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

LEGISLATION TO REGULATE GROUND WATER

694. SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL
SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH
SHRI D.K.SURESH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to bring a legislation to regulate ground water use to protect the interests of farmers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any report/ recommendation from any experts committee in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any measure to regulate the ground water use in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water is a State subject and therefore, bringing out suitable legislations fall under the ambit of States/UTs. However, this Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs for suitable enactment. So far, 19 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislations.

Further, this Department has issued guidelines for regulation and control of groundwater extraction in India with pan-India applicability on 24.09.2020. Under the guidelines, Ground water extraction for Agricultural activities falls under exempted category. Further, to improve groundwater resources through water conservation/water harvesting, Central Government has taken a number of measures which can be seen at the URL:

http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf.

(b) No sir.

(c) & (d) With a view to facilitate sustainable development of ground water, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is presently issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to project proponents including industries in 20 States/Union Territories (UTs) as per the extant ground water regulation guidelines. In balance States/UTs they are regulating as per their extant provisions. The provisions of the guidelines can be seen at URL: http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/CGWA_GWExtraction_Notification_24-09-2020.pdf.
