

in the main tourist destinations as well as the metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, and Bangalore. The shortage is very acute during the peak tourist season from October to March every year. The tremendous increase in foreign and domestic tourists is the principal reason for the shortage of hotel rooms.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tourism has launched a scheme of Bed & Breakfast asking the house owners to provide accommodation for the benefit of tourists. The main requisite of the scheme is that only those home owners, who are able to offer a minimum of one room or a maximum of five rooms of prescribed specification are eligible to apply for this scheme. The idea is to provide a clean and affordable place for foreign and domestic tourists and an opportunity to stay with an Indian family to experience local customs and traditions and relish authentic local cuisine.

Utilization of ground water

3012. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state—

(a) whether Central Ground Water Authority started conducting a survey in Delhi in two blocks to analyze legal and regulatory framework pertaining to utilization of ground water for better management of natural resources;

(b) whether the study covers a combination of States where legislation to regulate the use of ground water has been enacted and those where such an act is yet to be passed;

(c) whether objective of the study is to analyze existing legal and regulatory utilization of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details of study report of all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) No separate survey has been conducted by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to analyze the legal and regulatory framework in different States, including Delhi. However, based on ground water assessment carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the States, CGWA has notified South and Southwest districts in NCT Delhi for regulation of

ground water development and management to control over-exploitation and consequent depletion of ground water table.

'Water' being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the concerned States to take necessary steps for proper management of ground water resources. However, Ministry of Water Resources have circulated to the States and Union Territories, a draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water. The Bill was initially circulated in 1970 which has been re-circulated in 1992, 1996 and 2005 for adoption. So far ground water legislation has been enacted by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Assessment of average rainfall

†3013. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as compared to the average rainfall in preceding decade, the country has registered more rainfall in monsoons in the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assessment of average rainfall in the basins of large rivers of the country over the years, year-wise; and

(d) the rainfall in the current year, basin-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by India Meteorological Department (IMD), the average South-West monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole during the year 2006 has been estimated to be 889.4 millimetre (mm), a value which is very close to the normal rainfall of 892.2 mm. The average annual rainfall for the country as a whole in the last 10 years is given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below). The average monsoon rainfall in the major river basins for the last 10 years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.