

- (9) Park Royal Hotel, Nehru Place,
- (10) Vasant Continental (now named as Jai Prakash Hotel), Vasant Lok
- (11) Unison (Grand Hyatt), Vasant Kunj
- (12) Krishna Continental, Malviya Nagar
- (13) M/s Picadally Hotel, District Centre, Janak Place, and
- (14) Sewa Hotel, Community Centre, Pitam Pura.

(c) The major part of the dues outstanding to Land and Development Office is from hotels constructed on land allotted to NDMC, ITDC and DDA. Meetings were held with representatives of those organizations/agencies to expedite recovery of the dues. Breach/misuse notice, demand letter for misuse/unauthorized construction and show-cause notice have been issued depending upon the nature of each case. DDA has reported that defaulter notices and non-recovery certificates have been issued for recovery of pending dues.

(d) Some of these hotels have also carried out unauthorized construction and misusing the premises by conducting activities other than prescribed in the allotment letter/lease deed.

Drop in groundwater resources

2268. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a dramatic drop in groundwater resources in Northern India in the last six-seven years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therewith;
- (c) whether the groundwater levels have drastically dropped in the heavily farmed agricultural belts at rate of 1.6 inches (4 centimeters) per year between August 2002 and October 2008 even during normal rainfall; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to promote sustainable use of groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) As per the assessment of ground water resources carried out by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with States in 2004, about 15% of the blocks/talukas/mandals in the country are over-exploited where withdrawal of ground water in excess of natural recharge has been responsible for depletion in ground water levels in various parts of the country including Northern States.

(c) The CGWB has made a comparative study of depth to water level of pre-Monsoon (April/May) 2009 with the mean water level of last seven years (Pre-Monsoon 2002 - Pre-Monsoon 2008) for north Indian States/Uts namely Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu

and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, NCT Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The study has revealed that decline in ground water levels has been reported from majority of wells ranging from 0-2 m and 2 - 4 m.

(d) In order to address the issue of over-exploitation and to promote sustainable use of ground water, several measures such as rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water have been taken by concerned State Governments. Government of India has taken following augmentation and regulatory measures for sustainable use of ground water:-

Augmentation measures : Launching of schemes for "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies", "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States" and "Demonstrative Projects for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting, Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP), constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water, institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and leveraging upon MNREGA for artificial recharge of ground water.

Regulatory measures : Circulation of a draft Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control the development and management of ground water, issuing of directions by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to States having 'overexploited' areas for taking necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and to also include provision for making construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures mandatory under the building bye-laws.

Groundwater for commercial purposes

2269. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a huge quantity of groundwater is being used for commercial purposes in the country, especially in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the water tables are dipping with the excessive use of groundwater;
- (d) if so, the extent thereof;
- (e) whether the Central Ground Water Authority has laid down any strict norms in this regard;
- (f) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by Government against those who violates these norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported that decline in