

As per pre-revised Recruitment Rules for the post of Secretary, SNA, the term of appointment to the post was initially for a period of 5 years, extendable by 3 years.

The present incumbent was appointed to the post of Secretary, SNA by the Executive Board on 05.08.1999 on contract basis initially for a period of five years and his term was extended by the Executive Board thrice, for one year at a time. On 28th May, 2007, before the expiry of extended term, the Executive Board amended the Recruitment Rules and decided to appoint him, on contract basis, for a term of five years, afresh.

Thus, the present incumbent has outlived the initial term of 5 years and the extended term of 8 years, on the strength of the Executive Board's decision of 28th May, 2007.

Government is looking into the matter and examining the validity of the Executive Board's decision of 28th May, 2007.

Save Water Movement

†*599. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that water table is depleting day-by-day;
- (b) if so, measures being taken by Government to solve this problem;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to honour Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are engaged in Save Water Movement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of decrease in water level during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Analysis of ground water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reveals that ground water levels have declined in some parts of the country. In order to address the issue of depletion of ground water, the following measures have been undertaken by the Government:—

- (i) Circulation of Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control of development and management of ground water.
- (ii) Issue of directions by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to States having 'over-exploited' areas for taking necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and also to include provision for making construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures mandatory under the building bye-laws.
- (iii) Notification of 43 areas by CGWA in 10 States/UTs for regulation of ground water development.
- (iv) Implementation of schemes/programmes namely Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwell for over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas of hard rock region covering seven States, Demonstrative Projects for Artificial

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Recharge to Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting, Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies.

In addition, awareness programmes are organised by the respective State Governments as well as Government of India. A Web Enabled Ground Water Information System (WEGWIS) has also been launched.

(c) and (d) To encourage Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)/gram Panchayats/urban local bodies/institutions/corporate sector and individuals for adoption of innovative practices of augmentation of ground water, promoting water use efficiency, recycling and re-use of water and creating awareness through people's participation, the Ministry of Water Resources has instituted Ground Water Augmentation Awards and National Water Award.

(e) Analysis of water level data of observation wells of CGWB of May, 2006 and May, 2009 indicate decline in ground water table in about 57% of the wells and rise in about 43% of the wells during the period. The State-wise details given in the Statement.

Statement

*Comparative Statement showing Fluctuation during May, 2006 with May, 2009
of Water Levels in respect of observation wells monitored by CGWB*

State	No. of wells analysed by CGWB	Wells indicating rise in ground water table		Wells indicating fall in ground water table	
		No.	No. as % of total	No.	No. as % of total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	638	210	32.92	428	67.08
Arunachal Pradesh	9	2	22.22	7	77.78
Assam	181	29	16.02	152	83.98
Bihar	148	60	40.54	88	59.46
Chandigarh	17	9	52.94	8	47.06
Chhattisgarh	280	98	35.00	182	65.00
Delhi	142	38	26.76	104	73.24
Gujarat and Daman-Diu	629	301	47.85	328	52.15
Haryana	237	98	41.35	139	58.65
Himachal Pradesh	82	44	53.66	38	46.34
Jammu and Kashmir	123	58	47.15	65	52.85
Jharkhand	115	60	52.17	55	47.83

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	566	247	43.64	319	56.36
Kerala	535	242	45.23	293	54.77
Madhya Pradesh	770	261	33.90	509	66.10
Maharashtra	703	270	38.41	433	61.59
Meghalaya	26	3	11.54	23	88.46
Orissa	679	266	39.18	413	60.82
Punjab	126	62	49.21	64	50.79
Rajasthan	765	335	43.79	430	56.21
Tamil Nadu	663	412	62.14	251	37.86
Tripura	21	11	52.38	10	47.62
Uttar Pradesh	811	338	41.68	473	58.32
Uttaranchal	48	24	50.00	24	50.00
West Bengal	537	311	57.91	226	42.09
TOTAL :	8851	3789	42.81	5062	57.19

More powers to the Haj Committee of India

*600. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether representations/requests and suggestions have been received for giving more powers to the Haj Committee of India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to keep making improvements in the arrangements for the Haj pilgrims and provide them with better facilities after taking into account the feedback received, including that relating to the Haj Committee of India, from all concerned.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Guidelines on foreign visits

4460. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are any guidelines regarding frequent visit of foreign countries by Council of Ministers; and