

(b) whether it is a fact that scientists from the National Oceanography have done scientific study of plunge pool, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of recommendations made by the scientists; and

(d) how the Ministry is going to help the State Government in addressing this serious problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Underwater inspection and videography of the plunge pool area revealed rock cut terraces, erosion, cavities, pits etc. The deepest water depth observed is 46.65 m with reference to apron level. Large numbers of rock boulders are also found accumulated at several locations.

Recommendations made to carry out underwater inspection of the apron cylinders by divers at every 2 years or so to ascertain the damages if any on them depending on the overflow through spill way and anticipated quantum of damage. Conducting the Bathymetric survey comprising of echo sounder, side scan sonar and shallow seismic profiling will help to understand the topography and nature of sediment of the plunge pool.

(d) Central Water Commission provide technical assistance in addressing the problem based on data provided by the State Government.

#### **Use of ground water**

2471. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to treat the ground water as a public property;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any law in place to regulate the use of ground water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources is formulating a new National Water Policy (2012) guided by certain basic principles so that there is unified national perspective in planning, development and management of water resources including ground water resources. The draft National Water Policy *inter alia* recommends as follows:

- Even when it is recognized that States have the right to frame suitable policies, laws and regulations on water, there is felt need to evolve a broad over-arching national legal framework of general principles on water to lead the way for essential legislation on water governance in every state of the Union and devolution of necessary authority to the lower tiers of government to deal with the local water situation.
- Such a framework law must recognize water not only as a scarce resource but also as a sustainer of life and ecology. Therefore, water needs to be managed as a community resource held by the State, under public trust doctrine to achieve food security, livelihood and equitable and sustainable development for all. Existing Acts, such as Indian Easements Act, 1882, Irrigation Acts, etc. may have to be modified accordingly in as much as it appears to give proprietary rights to a land owner on groundwater under his/her land.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Ministry of Water Resources has circulated to the States/Union Territories the Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation. So far fourteen States/UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal have enacted ground water legislation.

(e) In view of above, question doesn't arise.