

Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab have initiated action for enactment of the Model Bill. The Government of Maharashtra has enacted Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purposes), Act 1993. The Government of Maharashtra has also introduced and passed a Comprehensive Ground Water Bill in the Legislative Assembly to regulate and manage ground water resources in the State. States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura have indicated that the ground water development in their States is low and thus they do not feel the need to enact the law.

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country and is headed by the Chairman, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB).

CGWB periodically carries out ground water assessment based on the data collected at the network of observation wells throughout the country. Based on this assessment, the areas are categorised into Safe, Semi-critical, Critical and Over-Exploited, of which the latter is the most water stressed area. Considering the severity of the exploitation and in order to restrict further exploitation of ground water, some of these highly over-exploited areas are declared as 'Notified' for regulation of ground water withdrawal. CGWA so far has notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development. Regulation of Ground Water development in these 'Notified' areas is through district administrative heads assisted by Advisory Committees under the provisions of Section 4 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

#### **Setting up of National Film Commission**

\*555. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a National Film Commission, a single window system, to give a boost to shooting of films by the Indian industry and foreigners and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether under the above system, it is proposed to give boost to film tourism in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken to address any kind of security risks from foreign film makers in the country;

(d) whether such a facility is enjoyed by Indian film makers in foreign countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) To give impetus to film and tourism sectors in India, a Committee on Promotion and Facilitation of Film Production in India has been set up in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 15th April, 2013. It will act as a single-window clearance mechanism at the central level to facilitate permissions for foreign and domestic film makers for shooting feature films, short films and TV programmes in India.

(c) The proposal of foreign film makers are forwarded to Script Evaluator (a panel of Retired Ambassadors/ Secretary level officers including officers of Indian Foreign Service) and Ministry of Home Affairs for obtaining their views/ clearances for script, shooting locations, and the foreign cast and crew members. Based on the recommendation of Script Evaluator and clearance from MHA, the permission is granted to the film makers along with certain terms and conditions including deputation of a liaison officer based on the recommendation of Script Evaluator. The clearance of Ministry of Home Affairs is mandatory for filming in border/sensitive/ restricted areas in the country. After the clearances are received, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issues permission letter based on which visas are issued to foreign cast and crew by Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) and (e) It is learned that several other countries offer single window clearance to film makers for shooting in their country. Some countries also offer tax incentives to film makers, both foreign and domestic. Some countries, where Film Commission exist are: UK, Singapore, USA etc.

#### **Representation of Muslims**

\*556. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is under representation of Muslims in the