

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 212
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2022

NGT ban on RO

212. SHRI NARESH BANSAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Ministry to ban R.O. purifiers at places where TDS is found to be less than 500 milligrams per litre in water;
- (b) if so, the steps taken thereon by Government;
- (c) number of places in the country including the State of Uttarakhand where TDS is less than 500 milligrams per litre in water and R.O. is not required and the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of places in the State of Uttarakhand where TDS is more than 500 milligram per litre and the water is not safe for drinking?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in O.A. 134 of 2015 titled 'Friends through its General Secretary versus Ministry of Water Resources' vide its order dated 20.05.2019 directed that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) may issue appropriate notification prohibiting use of Reverse Osmosis (RO) where Total Dissolved Solid (TDS) in water is less than 500mg/l.

In pursuance of above order, MoEF&CC has published Gazette Notification vide number 724 (E) dated 04.10.2021 on 'Regulation on use of Water Purification System'.

(c) & (d) Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has specified drinking water characteristics vide IS 10500 : 1991, wherein desirable limit for TDS is 500 mg/l and permissible limit in the absence of alternative source is 2000 mg/l.

The ground water quality varies as per seasons, depth of withdrawal, geogenic and anthropogenic reasons. Use of Reverse Osmosis based water purification system is governed by water quality of water sources and also on consumption requirement.

It is reported that out of 190 locations monitored for ground water quality in Uttarakhand, 171 locations has TDS value less than 500 mg/l and 19 locations with more than 500 mg/l.
