

**BEFORE THE HON' BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(PRINCIPAL BENCH), NEW DELHI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO 218/2020**

**In the matter of:**

**Devi Das Khatri**

**Petitioner**

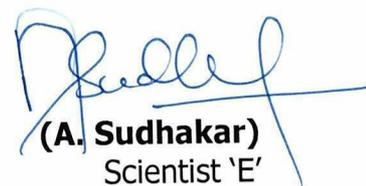
**Versus**

**Union of India & Ors.**

**Respondent(s)**

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**(A. Sudhakar)**  
Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board  
Delhi-110032

Place: Delhi  
Dated:17.11.2020

# STATUS REPORT IN COMPLIANCE TO THE ORDER OF HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ORDER DATED 9.10.2020 IN O.A No 218/2020 IN THE MATTER OF DEVI DAS KHATRI UNION OF INDIA & ORS

## 1. BACKGROUND

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench) issued order vide dated 9.10.2020 in the matter of OA No 218/2020 in the matter of Devi Das khatri Vs Union of India & Ors and directed in Para 7 that:

*"We are of the view that there are arguable points which are raised in the appeal which will require reconsideration. The Appeal is admitted. Issue notice to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. We are of the opinion that the CPCB may need to be heard in the matter though it has not been included in the respondents list. The CPCB is accordingly added as a party suo motto. Notice be issued to the CPCB also. The appellants may serve notices with complete set of papers and file an affidavit of service within one week. The response may be filed within six weeks from today by email at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in)*

## 2. ACTION TAKEN BY CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

In compliance to Hon'ble NGT order issued vide dated 9.10.2020, Guidelines notified by Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) vide dated 24.9.2020 to Regulate and Control Ground Water Extraction in India was reviewed in CPCB. Questions raised in the petition by the applicant relating to the Groundwater protection & Conservation from point (1) to (5) are also examined. A comparative analysis of the guidelines notified vide dated 24.9.2020 and questions raised by the applicant is done. Views/comments of CPCB are prepared based on the comparative analysis. The detailed comments/views on Guidelines of 24.9.2020 are given at **Annexure I**

CPCB has reviewed the Draft National Water Policy, 2020 (NWP, 2020) circulated by the Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti. A presentation was given by CPCB before the drafting committee through Video Conference meeting held on 30.9.2020 wherein relevant points were also debated. Comments on draft National Water Policy, 2020 were provided by CPCB to MoJS vide letter dated 13.10.2020.

The Model Groundwater (Sustainable Management) Bill, 2020 circulated by Central Ground Water Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti to CPCB was also reviewed and comments were provided on concerns related to Groundwater use.

The draft policy on safe reuse of Used Water is under review. The policy document was debated amongst stakeholder organisations on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and is under the process of finalisation by MoJS .

The issue of groundwater is being addressed by Union Government through the actions cited above. It is anticipated that the actions proposed will yield positive results and the goals set for sustainable management of ground water will be met.

## Views / Comments in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 9.10.2020 in O.A No 218/2020 in the matter of Devi Das Khatri Vs Uol &amp; Ors

S.No	Issues as per Hon'ble NGT Order dated 09.10.2020	As per Ground Water Guidelines dated 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020	CPCB Views on guidelines of 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2020
1	<p>Without any study of carrying capacity, policy allows concessions to MSME enterprises drawing GW less than 10 cum/day as well as for bulk water supply.</p> <p>No uniform policy for monitoring Groundwater recharge mechanism and to check the depleting groundwater levels in the country</p>	<p>1.0 Exemption from seeking No Objection Certificate</p> <p>(v) Micro and Small Enterprises drawing groundwater less than 10 cum/day</p> <p>No New Major Industries shall be granted No Objection Certificate in over exploited assessment areas except as per policy guidelines.</p>	<p>Stand-alone MSME units may be allowed the exemption, if the total water requirement is less than 10 cum/day, including groundwater. The limit is reasonable, as a household of five-member family requires one cum/day. However, the units located in cluster or designated industrial areas may not be given blanket exemption in OCS blocks.</p> <p>Existing units in all the OCS blocks may be allowed to continue without any expansion subject to condition that recharge activities in the vicinity are adopted under Corporate Responsibility. Supply of water in the vicinity may be allowed only based on positive yield because of rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge Ponds etc.</p> <p>CGWA should take lead role in Critical and Over Exploited areas rather than delegating powers to State Ground Water Authority, for protection and conservation of ground water resources.</p> <p>New industries falling under 17 categories of Highly Polluting Industries (HPIs) and Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) should not be allowed in all OCS Blocks till further orders from CGWA. CGWA may decide based on positive yield rates in the areas.</p> <p>In Over exploited areas, <b>expansion of existing</b></p>

		<p><b>4.1) Industrial Use</b>  In Over exploited assessment units, NOC shall not be granted for groundwater abstraction to any new Industry except those falling in the category of MSME.</p> <p>ii) All industries shall be required to adopt latest water efficient technologies so as to reduce dependence on groundwater</p> <p>iii) All industries abstracting Groundwater in excess of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day shall undertake annual audit through CII, FICCI /NPC certified auditors and submit audit reports within three months of completion of the same. All such industries shall be required to reduce their groundwater use by at least 20% over the next three years through appropriate means.</p> <p>iv) Monitoring of water level shall be done by the project proponent</p>	<p><b>industries</b> warranting more consumption of Groundwater shall not be granted NOC by CGWA. Guidelines have placed high focus on reducing dependence on groundwater.</p> <p>Audit reports by such industries abstracting excess of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day shall submitted, as proposed. Actions needed based on Audit findings. Any failures and shortcomings should attract action from CGWA, which may be withdrawing the NOC.</p> <p>Frequency may be specified for monitoring water level by the project proponent. Focus should be on verification mechanism for recharge and abstraction ratio of groundwater quantity by the industries.</p> <p>Month-wise data base may be maintained block-wise/area-wise to observe the trend of water level in public domain. The project proponent may also provide monthly data on GW levels, on a central portal of CGWA.</p>
2	In water scarce areas extraction can be allowed on stringent conditions of ensuring recharge.	<p><b>4.1) Industrial Use</b></p> <p>vii) Industries which are likely to cause Groundwater Pollution need to undertake necessary well head protection measures to ensure prevention of groundwater pollution.</p>	<p>The over-exploited and critical blocks need protection, while semi-critical blocks need close watch/ surveillance. In any case, the proposed abstraction charges for ground water should be applicable to sustain the measures of recharging groundwater. The measures to ensure protection and prevention of pollution needed better surveillance through State departments.</p>

		<p>viii) All industries drawing Groundwater in safe, semi Critical and Critical Assessment units shall pay groundwater abstraction charges as applicable</p> <p>ix) All existing industries drawing groundwater in over exploited assessment units shall be liable to pay groundwater restoration charges as applicable</p> <p>6.0 Bulk Water Supply</p> <p>Modalities for issue of No Objection Certificate for bulk /tanker water supplies shall be worked out in consultation with States/UTs and suitable guidelines in this regard will be framed and issued separately for the same</p> <p>7.0 Abstraction of saline Groundwater: detailed guidelines in this regard shall be prepared and issued separately</p>	<p>All users, commercial &amp; industrial, should pay restoration charges in addition to abstraction charges in OCS blocks.</p> <p>As proposed, a framework with and modalities to issue NOC for bulk/tanker water supply may be issued by CGWA at an early date, before March 2021.</p> <p>Due care should be taken in respect of disposal of industrial effluents by the Units in saline areas so as to protect aquifers from pollution in compliance to discharge norms notified under Environment (Protection) Rules , 1986 or as per Consent conditions issued under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by the respective SPCB/PCC.</p> <p>As proposed, a framework with guidelines for abstraction of saline ground water shall be prepared as part of the guidelines by CGWA before March 2021.</p>
3	<p>The CGWA was repeatedly issuing notification liberalising the groundwater extraction in the water scarcity areas in spite of need for stringent action, contrary to the very purpose of which CGWA was set up</p>		<p>The directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court and NGT may be complied by strengthening CGWA.</p> <p>The National Water Policy 2020 is being drafted and some of the issues under examination are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water may be brought under Concurrent list of Central and States.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State policies of free power to agricultural pump-sets need relook.</li> <li>• The policies related to crop pattern in states may also need examination.</li> <li>• A water grid similar to power grid may be established to know the losses in a block/area.</li> </ul> <p>Responsibilities of State Ground Water Authorities to be delineated clearly as a part of the guidelines.</p> <p>11.0 (viii) In case the proponent fails to comply with the conditions of NOC, NOC may be withdrawn/ rejected indicating the reasons by CGWA.</p>
4	<p>Lack of mechanism for Recharge of Groundwater. Effective steps to regulate extraction of Groundwater were not being taken</p> <p>No effective mechanism to check violation by way of recovery of adequate compensation which was laid down by this tribunal based on expert studies. The tribunal accordingly issued directions and sought compliance report for which the matter is pending.</p>		<p>The mandatory provisions shall continue and proposed reduction of 20% every year for next three years be enforced for major consumers. Those failing to meet the targets may be levied EC charges.</p> <p>The EC mechanism incorporated in Guidelines is in order and all illegal activities should be stopped in addition to levying the EC charges.</p> <p>Strict surveillance and implementation of NOC conditions before renewal of NOC may be ensured as laid down in the guidelines.</p> <p>A centralised system is needed to regulate water extraction. The State authorities may be allowed to regulate water extraction in SAFE blocks. The Central Ground Water Authority may regulate and monitor the water extraction in other blocks in the country.</p> <p>All mining projects are allowed to draw water. Most of these projects take EC/NOC from other regulatory organisations. The comprehensive Water Plan prepared</p>

			<p>by the project proponent should also address issues of water accumulation in abandoned mine pits. Mining operations and closure plans of mining activities need monitoring by regulatory authorities, not only for mine safety issues but also for likely contamination of groundwater.</p> <p>A provision is needed for onsite treatment or alternate water supply in geogenic polluted areas with high arsenic, fluoride and other contaminants.</p>
5	<p>Taking steps for sustainable Groundwater Management</p> <p>Supreme Court – Sustainable development based on Intra and Intergenerational Equity, Precautionary principle and conservation of natural resources</p>	<p>9.0 General Compliance conditions in No Objection Certificate</p> <p>Proponent shall monitor quality of GW from abstraction structures once in a year. Water samples from bore wells / tube wells / dug wells shall be collected during April/May every year and analysed in NABL accredited laboratory for basic parameters (cations and anions) heavy metals, pesticides /organic compounds etc. Water quality data shall be made available to CGWA through web portal</p>	<p>The guidelines proposed are in line with Hon'ble Court orders and also the principles mentioned. The qualitative and quantitative aspects are captured on a central portal for effective monitoring at district, state and central levels.</p> <p>A comprehensive institutional framework is required to levy Environmental Compensation charges, collect these charges and deposit in separate accounts. The collected charges may be spent through a committee headed preferably by Principal Secretaries at Department of Water Resources in States.</p> <p>The Environmental Conservation charges are penalties in nature. The money recovered requires proper utilisation for the purpose of groundwater conservation. In some areas, remedial measures are needed to restore groundwater quality which could cost very high and take long time. The identified polluters have to bear the cost of remediation and ensure regular flow of funds for this purpose. In case of failure to locate the polluters, the State is responsible to pay cost of remediation.</p>

**MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI**  
**(Department Of Water Resources, River Development And Ganga Rejuvenation)**  
**(CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY)**

**NOTIFICATION**

New Delhi, the 24th September, 2020

**S.O. 3289(E).**—WHEREAS, on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated the 10th December, 1996 passed in Civil writ Petition No 4677 of 1985, MC Mehta Vs Union of India, the Central Government constituted the Central Ground Water Authority (hereafter referred to as the 'Authority') vide notification number S.O. 38 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1997 to exercise powers under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) act, 1986 (29 of 1986) for the purposes of regulation and control of Ground Water management and development and to exercise certain powers and perform certain functions relating thereto;

AND WHEREAS, the Authority has been regulating ground water development and management by way of issuing 'No Objection Certificates' for ground water extraction to industries or infrastructure projects or Mining Projects etc., and framed guidelines in this connection from time to time in twenty two States and two Union territories, where ground water development is not being regulated by the State Government Union Territory administration concerned;

AND WHEREAS, some of the State Governments or, Union territories enacted legislations and issued regulatory directions or orders for regulating ground water development and management;

AND WHEREAS, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi vide order dated the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in OA Nos. 204/205/206 of 2014 has issued directions to the Authority to ensure that any person operating tube-well, or any means to extract ground water shall obtain permission from the Authority and shall operate the same subject to the law in force, even if such unit is existing unit or the unit is yet to be established;

AND WHEREAS, the said Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated the 09<sup>th</sup> July, 2015 in OA Nos. 34 and 37 of 2014 directed all industrial units which are members of the Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) to approach the Authority through State Pollution Control Board for obtaining 'No Objection Certificate' in accordance with the law;

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated the 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 in OA No 200- of 2014 directed that every industry should be directed to pay for extraction of such water, that too, subject to the conditions stated in the order permitting such extraction;

AND WHEREAS, the said Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated the 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 in O.A. Nos. 176 of 2015 and 59 of 2012 respectively directed the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to forthwith review the existing mechanism so as to ensure effective steps for conserving the groundwater resources;

AND WHEREAS, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and powers conferred by sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 the Authority, with a view to protect the ground water resources had circulated the draft guidelines for grant of 'No Objection Certificate' on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 inviting comments and suggestions from all the stakeholders;

AND WHEREAS, all objections and suggestions received in response to the said draft guideline have been duly considered by the Central Government, the Authority notified the guidelines to regulate groundwater over-exploitation and to conserve the groundwater resources in the country vide notification number S.O. 6140 (E), dated the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018;

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated the 03<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 in the OA No. 176 of 2015 directed that the above mentioned notification dated the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 may not be given effect to as it is unsustainable if tested on 'Precautionary Principle, Sustainable development as well as Inter-generational Equity Principles' and if implemented, will result in fast depletion of groundwater and damage to water bodies and will be destructive of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India;

AND WHEREAS, the said Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 constituted a committee to deliberate on steps for preventing depletion of groundwater, robust monitoring mechanism

against unauthorised extractions and fulfillment of 'No Objection Certificate' conditions, environment compensation etc and to submit a report;

AND WHEREAS, the aforesaid committee submitted the report along-with draft guidelines to regulate groundwater extraction and groundwater conservation in Hon'ble Tribunal on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, the above said Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 directed to comply with certain points for sustainable groundwater management while issuing 'No Objection Certificates' to commercial establishments by the Authority;

Now therefore, in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the powers conferred by sub-section (3) of Section 3 read with Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986), the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, hereby notifies the guidelines to regulate and control groundwater extraction in the country in supersession to this Ministry notification vide S.O. 6140 (E), dated the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 as per the Schedule below:

### **SCHEDULE**

#### **Guidelines to regulate and control ground water extraction in India**

(with immediate effect)

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[F. No. CGWA-21/4/2020-CGWA]

ASHISH KUMAR, Director

**ANNEXURES**

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**Guidelines to regulate and control groundwater extraction in India****Preamble and Background:**

On the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 10th December, 1996 passed in Civil writ Petition No 4677 of 1985, MC Mehta Vs Union of India, the Central Government had constituted the Central Ground Water Board as Authority vide notification number S.O. 38 (E), dated the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 1997 to exercise powers under sub section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) act, 1986 (29 of 1986) for the purposes of regulation and control of Ground Water Management and Development and to exercise certain powers and perform certain functions as per the said Act.

The Authority has been regulating ground water development and management by way of issuing 'No Objection Certificates' for ground water extraction to industries or infrastructure projects or Mining Projects etc., and framed guidelines in this connection from time to time applicable in twenty two States and two Union territories, where ground water development is not being regulated by the State Government and Union territory administration concerned.

To have sustainable management of water resources in the country groundwater abstraction guidelines have been prepared to regulate groundwater extraction and conserve the scarce groundwater resources in the country.

These guidelines will come into force with immediate effect from the date of Gazette Notification and will supersede all earlier guidelines issued by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).

These guidelines will have pan India applicability. Ground water abstraction in States/ Uts (which are not regulating ground water abstraction) shall continue to be regulated by Central Ground Water Authority.

Further, wherever States/ Uts have come out with their own groundwater abstraction guidelines, which are inconsistent with the CGWA guidelines, the provisions of CGWA guidelines will prevail. However, in case the guidelines followed by such States/ Uts contain some more stringent provisions than CGWA guidelines, such provisions may also be given effect to by the States/ Uts Authorities in addition to those contained in the CGWA guidelines. States may be at liberty to suggest additional conditions/ criteria based on the local hydro-geological situations which shall be reviewed by CGWA/Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India before acceptance.

All new/existing industries, industries seeking expansion, infrastructure projects and mining projects abstracting ground water, unless specifically exempted under Para 1.0 below, will be required to seek No Objection Certificate from Central Ground Water Authority or, the concerned State/ UT Ground Water

Authority as the case may be. The entire process of grant of No Objection Certificate shall be online through a web based application system.

Water management plans shall be prepared by all the State Ground Water Authorities/ Organizations for all Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical assessment units starting with Over-exploited units. Water management plans shall be reviewed and updated periodically. Water management plans, data on water availability and scarcity and policy framed in this regard shall be placed on the websites of Central Ground Water Authority/ State Ground Water Authority.

### **1.0 Exemptions from seeking No Objection Certificate:**

Following categories of consumers shall be exempted from seeking No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction:

- (i) Individual domestic consumers in both rural and urban areas for drinking water and domestic uses.
- (ii) Rural drinking water supply schemes.
- (iii) Armed Forces Establishments and Central Armed Police Forces establishments in both rural and urban areas.
- (iv) Agricultural activities.
- (v) Micro and small Enterprises drawing ground water less than 10 cum/day.

### **1.1 Registration of Drilling Rigs**

State / Ut Governments shall be responsible for registering drilling rigs operating within their jurisdiction and for maintaining the database of wells drilled by them. Appropriate link shall be provided in CGWA portal for making the data available to CGWA.

### **2.0 Drinking & Domestic use for Residential apartments/ Group Housing Societies/ Government water supply agencies in urban areas**

For grant of No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction, the project proponent has to furnish the details as per the guidelines issued by the CGWA in proper format as available in CGWA website. No Objection Certificate for new /existing wells shall be granted only in such cases where the local Government water supply agency is unable to supply requisite amount of water in the area.

No Objection Certificate shall be granted subject to the following specific conditions:

- i) Installation of Sewage Treatment Plants shall be mandatory for all residential apartments/ Group Housing Societies where ground water requirement is more than 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The water from Sewage Treatment Plants shall be utilized for toilet flushing, car washing, gardening etc.
- ii) The No Objection Certificate shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of issue or till such time local Government water supply is provided to the project area, whichever is earlier. In case the project proponent receives water supply from the concerned local Government Water Supply Agency during the validity of the No Objection Certificate, intimation regarding availability of public water supply shall be sent by the project proponent to CGWA and No Objection Certificate will be cancelled by the Authority. In other cases, the project proponent will apply for renewal of No Objection Certificate, ninety days before the expiry of No Objection Certificate.
- iii) Proponents shall be liable to pay ground water abstraction charges for the quantum of ground water proposed to be extracted, as per rates mentioned in Table 5.1.

### **Documents to be submitted with the application**

- a) Details of water requirement computed as per National Building Code, 2016 (**Annexure I**), taking into account recycling/ reuse of treated water for flushing etc.
- b) Affidavit on non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10/- by the applicant, confirming non/ inadequate availability of public water supply in case of users requiring ground water up to 10 m<sup>3</sup>/ day for drinking/ domestic use.
- c) Certificate of non-availability of water from local government water supply agency in cases requiring ground water in excess of 10 m<sup>3</sup>/ day for drinking/ domestic use. Government water supply agencies

applying for No Objection Certificate shall submit copy of government approval of the scheme/project proposed to be implemented.

- d) Ground water quality data of existing bore well/ tube well/ dug well from any National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratory or Govt. approved laboratory (in case of existing projects applying for no objection certificate)
- e) Proposal for rain water harvesting/ recharge within the premises as per Model Building Bye Laws issued by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

### 3.0 Agriculture Sector

Agriculture sector is the backbone of the Indian economy. As per Minor Irrigation Census 2013-14, 87.86% of wells are owned by marginal, small and semi-medium farmers having land holding up to 4 hectares (ha). Around 9.18 % of wells are owned by medium farmers having land holding 4 – 10 ha and 2.96% of the wells are owned by big farmers having land holding more than 10 ha.

Considering the number of ground water abstraction structures, regulation of ground water in agriculture sector through a 'command and control' strategy will prove to be an arduous task. Therefore, a participatory approach for sustainable ground water management would be more productive.

States/Uts are advised to review their free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers, bring suitable water pricing policy and may work further towards crop rotation/diversification/other initiatives to reduce over-dependence on groundwater.

Agriculture sector shall be exempted from obtaining No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction.

### 4.0 Commercial Use

No new major industries shall be granted No Objection Certificate in over-exploited assessment areas except as per the policy guidelines.

Availability of ground water resources shall be given due regard while considering applications for grant of No Objection Certificate for commercial use.

Commercial entities extracting ground water shall be required to submit online annual water audit report including an audit of water use as mentioned in the relevant sections. CGWA/ State Ground Water Authority (SGWA) shall publish all such audit reports online.

CGWA/ SGWAs shall engage independent agencies to verify the compliance of No Objection Certificate conditions periodically.

#### 4.1 Industrial Use

In Over-exploited assessment units, No Objection Certificate shall not be granted for ground water abstraction to any new industry except those falling in the category of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). However, No Objection Certificate for drinking/ domestic use for work force, green belt use by these new industries shall be permitted. Expansion of existing industries involving increase in quantum of ground water abstraction in over-exploited assessment units shall not be permitted. No Objection Certificate shall not be granted to new packaged water industries in Overexploited areas, even if they belong to MSME category.

No Objection Certificate for ground water extraction by industries shall be granted subject to the following specific conditions:

- i) No Objection Certificate shall be granted only in such cases where local government water supply agencies are not able to supply the desired quantity of water.
- ii) All industries shall be required to adopt latest water efficient technologies so as to reduce dependence on ground water resources.
- iii) All industries abstracting ground water in excess of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/d shall be required to undertake annual water audit through Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)/ Federation Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)/ National Productivity Council (NPC) certified auditors and submit audit reports within three months of completion of the same to CGWA. All such industries shall be

- required to reduce their ground water use by at least 20% over the next three years through appropriate means.
- iv) Construction of observation well(s) (piezometer)(s) within the premises and installation of appropriate water level monitoring mechanism as mentioned in Section 15 shall be mandatory for industries drawing/ proposing to draw more than 10 m<sup>3</sup>/day of ground water and. Monitoring of water level shall be done by the project proponent. The piezometer (observation well) shall be constructed at a minimum distance of 15 m from the bore well/production well. Depth and aquifer zone tapped in the piezometer shall be the same as that of the pumping well/ wells. Detailed guidelines for design and construction of piezometers are given in **Annexure II**. Monthly water level data shall be submitted to the CGWA through the web portal.
  - v) The proponent shall be required to adopt roof top rain water harvesting/ recharge in the project premises. Industries which are likely to pollute ground water (chemical, pharmaceutical, dyes, pigments, paints, textiles, tannery, pesticides/ insecticides, fertilizers, slaughter house, explosives etc.) shall store the harvested rain water in surface storage tanks for use in the industry.
  - vi) Injection of treated/ untreated waste water into aquifer system is strictly prohibited.
  - vii) Industries which are likely to cause ground water pollution e.g. Tanning, Slaughter Houses, Dye, Chemical/ Petrochemical, Coal washeries, other hazardous units etc. (as per CPCB list) need to undertake necessary well head protection measures to ensure prevention of ground water pollution (**Annexure III**).
  - viii) All industries drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units shall be required to pay ground water abstraction charges as applicable as per Tables 5.2 A and 5.3 A.
  - ix) All existing industries drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units shall be liable to pay ground water restoration charges as applicable as per Tables 5.2 B and 5.3 B.

#### **Documents to be submitted with the application**

- (a) An affidavit on non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10/- regarding non availability of water supply from local government agencies in cases where ground water requirement is up to 10 m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- (b) Certificate regarding non/ partial availability of fresh water/ treated waste water supply from the local government water supply agency in cases where requirement of ground water is more than 10 m<sup>3</sup>/day.
- (c) Ground water quality data of existing bore well/ tube well/ dug well from any NABL accredited laboratory or Govt. approved laboratory (in case of existing projects applying for No Objection Certificate)
- (d) Water quality data of bore well/ tube well/ dug well in respect of existing industries from NABL accredited laboratories/Government approved laboratories.
- (e) Proposal for rain water harvesting/ recharge within the premises as per Model Building Bye Laws issued by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- (f) **Impact Assessment report:** All projects extracting/proposing to extract ground water in excess of 100 m<sup>3</sup>/day in Over-exploited, Critical and Semi-critical areas shall have to mandatorily submit impact assessment report of existing/ proposed ground water withdrawal on the ground water regime and also socio-economic impacts report prepared by accredited consultants. Pro-forma for the report is given in **Annexure IV**.

#### **4.2 Mining Projects**

All existing as well as new mining projects will be required to obtain No Objection Certificate for ground water abstraction. Since mining projects are location specific, there will be no ban on grant of No Objection Certificate for abstraction of ground water for such projects in over-exploited assessment units.

No Objection Certificate for mining projects shall be granted subject to the following specific conditions:

- i) It shall be mandatory for all the mining industries to ensure that water available from de-watering operations is properly treated and should be gainfully utilized for supply for irrigation, dust

suppression, mining process, recharge in downstream and for maintaining e-flows in the river system.

- ii) Construction of observation well(s) (piezometers) along the periphery in the premises, for monthly ground water level monitoring, shall be mandatory for mines drawing/ proposing to draw more than 10 m<sup>3</sup>/day of ground water. Depth and aquifer zone tapped in the piezometer shall be commensurate with that of pumping well/ wells.
- iii) In addition, the proponent shall monitor ground water levels by establishing observation wells (piezometers) in the core and buffer zones as specified in the No Objection Certificate.
- iv) In case of coal and other base metal mining the project proponent shall use the advance dewatering technology (by construction of series of dewatering abstraction structures) to avoid contamination of surface water.
- v) In addition to this, all mining units shall also monitor the water quality of mine seepage and mine discharge through NABL accredited/ Govt. approved laboratories and the same shall be submitted at the time of self compliance.
- vi) All mining projects drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units shall be required to pay ground water abstraction charges as applicable as per Tables 5.4 A.
- vii) All mining projects drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units shall be liable to pay ground water restoration charges as per Table 5.4 B.

#### **Documents to be submitted with the application**

- (a) Mining plan approved by the concerned Govt. agency/ department.
- (b) Proposal for rain water harvesting/ recharge within the premises as per Model Building Bye Laws issued by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- (c) Comprehensive report prepared by accredited consultant on ground water conditions in both core and buffer zones of the mine, depth wise and year wise mine seepage calculations, impact assessment of mining and dewatering on ground water regime and its socio-economic impact, details of recycling, reuse and recharge, reduction of pumping with use of technology for mining and water management to minimize and mitigate the adverse impact on ground water, based on local conditions. Format for report is given in **Annexure V**.

#### **4.3 Infrastructure projects:**

Since infrastructure projects are location specific, grant of No Objection Certificate to such projects located in over-exploited assessment units shall not be banned. New infrastructure projects/ residential buildings may require dewatering during construction activity and/ or use ground water for construction. In both cases, applicants shall seek No Objection Certificate from CGWA before commencement of work. However, in over-exploited assessment units, use of ground water for construction activity shall be permitted only if no treated sewage water is available within 10 km radius of the site. New as well as existing Infrastructure projects shall also be required to seek No Objection Certificate for abstraction of ground water.

No 'No Objection Certificate' shall be granted for extraction of groundwater for Water Parks, Theme Parks and Amusement Parks in over-exploited assessment units.

Indicative list of Infrastructure projects is given in Annexure VI.

The No Objection Certificate for ground water abstraction will be granted subject to the following specific conditions:

- i) In case of infrastructure projects that require dewatering, proponent shall be required to carry out regular monitoring of dewatering discharge rate (using a digital water flow meter) and submit the data through the web portal to CGWA/SGWA as applicable. Monitoring records and results should be retained by the proponent for two years, for inspection or reporting as required by CGWA/SGWA.

- ii) Installation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) shall be mandatory for new projects, where ground water requirement is more than 20 m<sup>3</sup>/day. The water from STP shall be utilized for toilet flushing, car washing, gardening etc.
- iii) For infrastructure dewatering/ construction activity, No Objection Certificate shall be valid for specific period as per the detailed proposal submitted by the project proponent.
- iv) All infrastructure projects drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units shall be required to pay ground water abstraction charges as applicable as per Table 5.3 A.
- v) All infrastructure projects (new/ existing) drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units shall be liable to pay ground water restoration charges as per Table 5.3 B.

#### **Documents to be submitted with the application**

- (a) In cases where dewatering is involved, submission of impact assessment report prepared by an accredited consultant on the ground water situation in the area giving detailed plan of pumping, proposed usage of pumped water and comprehensive impact assessment of the same on the ground water regime shall be mandatory. The report should highlight environmental risks and proposed management strategies to overcome any significant environmental issues such as ground water level decline, land subsidence etc.
- (b) An affidavit on non judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10/- regarding non availability of water from any other source in case water is required for construction in safe and semi critical areas.
- (c) Certificate from a government agency regarding non availability of treated sewage water for construction within 10 km radius of the site in critical and over-exploited areas.
- (d) Certificate of non-availability of water from local government water supply agency in respect of all categories of assessments units for commercial use.
- (e) Proposal for rain water harvesting/ recharge within the premises as per Model Building Bye Laws issued by Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.
- (f) Details of water requirement computed as per National Building Code, 2016 (**Annexure I**), taking into account recycling/ reuse of treated water for flushing etc. (in case of completed infrastructure projects for commercial use).
- (g) Completion certificate from the concerned agency for infrastructure projects requiring water for commercial use.

#### **5.0 Ground water abstraction/ restoration charges**

All residential apartments/ group housing societies/ Government water supply agencies in urban areas shall be required to pay ground water abstraction charges.

All industries/mining/ infrastructure projects drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units will have to pay ground water abstraction charges based on quantum of ground water extraction and category of assessment unit as per details given in this guideline.

All existing mining/ infrastructure projects and existing industries including MSME drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units will have to pay ground water restoration charges based on quantum of ground water extraction. Further, new MSME, new infrastructure and new Mining projects in over exploited areas shall also be required to pay ground water restoration charges.

Existing industries, infrastructure units and mining projects which have installed/constructed artificial recharge structures in compliance of the conditions prescribed in the groundwater guidelines prevailing at the time of grant of No Objection Certificate or its renewal shall be eligible for a rebate of 50% (fifty percent) in the ground water abstraction charges/ground water restoration charges, subject to their satisfactory performance and verification.

The revenue generated from the proposed water abstraction/ restoration charges shall be kept in a separate fund for implementation of site specific suitable demand/ supply side interventions.

### 5.1 Rates of Ground water abstraction /restoration charges

#### I. Drinking and domestic use for residential apartments/ group housing societies/ Government water supply agencies in Urban areas

All residential apartments/ Group Housing Societies requiring water only for drinking/domestic use requiring No Objection Certificate would pay ground water abstraction charges as per rates given below in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 Ground Water Abstraction charges for Drinking & Domestic use.**

Quantum of Groundwater withdrawal (m <sup>3</sup> /month)	Rate of ground water abstraction charges (Rs. per m <sup>3</sup> )
0-25	No charge
26-50	1.00
>50	2.00

Government water supply agencies and Government infrastructure projects shall pay Ground water abstraction Charges @ Rs. 0.50 per m<sup>3</sup>.

#### II. Packaged Drinking Water units

Rates of ground water abstraction charges for packaged drinking water units in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units are given in Table 5.2 A and those for ground water restoration charges in over-exploited assessment units are given in Table 5.2 B.

**Table 5.2 A: Rates of ground water abstraction charges for packaged drinking water units (Rs per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal				
		Up to 50m <sup>3</sup> /day	51 to <200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Safe	1.00	3.00	5.00	8.00	10.00
2.	Semi-critical	2.00	5.00	10.00	15.00	20.00
3.	Critical	4.00	10.00	20.00	40.00	60.00

**Table 5.2 B: Rates of ground water restoration charges for packaged drinking water units (Rs per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal				
		Up to 50 m <sup>3</sup> /day	51 to <200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Over-exploited (existing industries only)	8.00	20.00	40.00	80.00	120.00

### III. Other Industries & infrastructure projects

Rates of ground water abstraction charges for other industries and infrastructure projects in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units are given in Table 5.3 A and those for ground water restoration charges in over-exploited assessment units are given in Table 5.3 B.

**Table 5.3 A: Rates of Ground Water abstraction charges for other industries & infrastructure projects (Rs per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal			
		< 200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Safe	1.00	2.00	3.00	5.00
2.	Semi-critical	2.00	3.00	5.00	8.00
3.	Critical	4.00	6.00	8.00	10.00

**Table 5.3 B: Rates of ground water restoration charges for other industries & infrastructure projects (Rs per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal			
		< 200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Over-exploited (existing industries / new Industries as per the present Guidelines)	6.00	10.00	16.00	20.00

### IV. Mining projects

Rates of ground water abstraction charges for mining, which are drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units are given in Table 5.4 A and those for ground water restoration charges in case of projects drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units are given in Table 5.4 B.

**Table 5.4 A: Rates of ground water abstraction charges for mining (Rs. per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓ Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal			
		< 200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Safe	1.00	2.00	2.50	3.00
2.	Semi-critical	2.00	2.50	3.00	4.00
3.	Critical	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00

**Table 5.4 B: Rates of ground water restoration charges for mining (Rs. per m<sup>3</sup>)**

S.No.	Category of area ↓  Ground water use →	Quantum of ground water withdrawal			
		< 200 m <sup>3</sup> /day	200 to <1000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	1000 to <5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day	5000 m <sup>3</sup> /day and above
1.	Over-exploited	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00

### 6.0 Bulk Water Supply

All private tankers abstracting ground water and use it for supply as bulk water suppliers will now mandatorily seek No Objection Certificate for ground water abstraction. The bulk water suppliers through tankers drawing ground water in safe, semi-critical and critical assessment units shall pay groundwater abstraction charges as per the **Table-6.1 A**. The bulk water suppliers drawing ground water in over-exploited assessment units shall pay the groundwater restoration charges as per the **Table-6.1 B**. All tankers will have to install GPS based system for their monitoring of movement/area of operation.

Modalities for issue of No Objection Certificate for bulk/tanker water supplies shall be worked out in consultation with States/Uts and suitable guidelines in this regard will be framed and issued separately for the same.

**Table-6.1A: Groundwater abstraction charges for Bulk/Tanker water supplies**

Category	Rate per m <sup>3</sup> (in Rs.)
Safe	<b>10</b>
Semi Critical	<b>20</b>
Critical	<b>25</b>

**Table-6.1B: Groundwater abstraction charges for Bulk/Tanker water supplies**

Category	Rate per m <sup>3</sup> (in Rs.)
Over Exploited	<b>35</b>

### 7.0 Abstraction of Saline ground water

Abstraction of saline ground water in areas having either saline ground water at all depths or pockets of saline ground water in an otherwise fresh water area for use by industries/ dewatering by infrastructure/ mining projects including those located in over-exploited areas would be encouraged. Such industries shall be exempted from paying ground water abstraction charges.

The list of such assessment units having saline ground water at all depths as per the latest assessment of dynamic ground water resources will be made available by the CGWA in their website. However, due care shall be taken in respect of disposal of effluents by the units so as to protect the water bodies and the aquifers from pollution.

Detailed guidelines in this regard shall be prepared and issued separately.

### 8.0 Protection of Wetland Areas

The wet land areas in the country are very crucial as they are direct reflection of the presence of ground water in such areas. The protection of the wetland areas is being separately handled by the Wetland Authorities. Since ground water is very crucial for the survival of the wetland area, any excessive ground water development within the zone of wetland area would affect the volume of water in that wetland.

Projects falling within 500 m. from the periphery of demarcated wetland areas shall mandatorily submit a detailed proposal indicating that any ground water abstraction by the project proponent does not affect the protected wetland areas. Furthermore, before seeking permission from CGWA, the projects shall take consent/approval from the appropriate Wetland Authorities to establish their projects in the area.

### 9.0 General compliance conditions in No Objection Certificate

- i. Installation of digital water flow meter (conforming to BIS/ IS standards) having telemetry system in the abstraction structure(s) shall be mandatory for all users seeking No Objection Certificate and intimation regarding their installation shall be communicated to the CGWA within 30 days of grant of No Objection Certificate through the web-portal.
- ii. Proponents shall mandatorily get water flow meter calibrated on from an authorized agency once in a year.
- iii. Proponents shall install roof top rain water harvesting & recharge systems in the project area.
- iv. Proponents shall pay Ground Water Abstraction/ Restoration Charges based on quantum of ground water extraction as applicable as per the rates given in Section 6.
- v. Construction of purpose-built observation wells (piezometers) for ground water level monitoring shall be mandatory as per Section 15. Water level data shall be made available to CGWA through web portal. Detailed guidelines for construction of piezometers are given in **Annexure-II**.
- vi. Proponents shall monitor quality of ground water from the abstraction structure(s) once in a year. Water samples from bore wells/ tube wells / dug wells shall be collected during April/May every year and analysed in NABL accredited laboratories for basic parameters (cations and anions), heavy metals, pesticides/ organic compounds etc. Water quality data shall be made available to CGWA through the web portal.
- vii. If the existing well becomes defunct due to mechanical failure within the validity period of No Objection Certificate, the user can construct a replacement well under intimation to CGWA on web portal. The defunct well shall be properly sealed (**Refer Annexure VII**). The user will be required to submit documentary proof in this regard. However, if the existing abstraction structures fails to yield water and he proponent desires to drill another tubewell in the same premises, prior permission of the Authority shall be required. If the replacement well is to be drilled in some different place, the proponent shall obtain fresh No Objection Certificate.
- viii. Wherever feasible, requirement of water for greenbelt (horticulture) shall be met from recycled / treated waste water.
- ix. In case of change of ownership, new owner of the industry will have to apply for incorporation of necessary changes in the No Objection Certificate with documentary proof within 60 days of taking over possession of the premises.

### 10.0 Monitoring of compliance of No Objection Certificate Conditions

To monitor the compliance of No Objection Certificate conditions, Central Ground Water Authority and State/ UT Ground Water Authorities shall take the following steps:

- a. Suitable MIS will be developed for compliance monitoring.
- b. District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners (DCs) /District Magistrates (DMs) are authorized to take enforcement measures like sealing of unauthorized ground water abstraction structures, disconnection of electricity, launching of prosecution against those violating the No Objection Certificate conditions and taking action for imposition of Environmental Compensation.
- c. Technical officers of CGWB/ CGWA and State groundwater organizations are authorized to take actions with respect to monitoring and periodic inspections with the approval of competent authority.
- d. In case of violation of any of the No Objection Certificate conditions, the proponents shall be liable to pay the penalties as per **Section 16**.

### 11.0 Renewal of No Objection Certificate

No objection certificate shall be renewed periodically, subject to the compliance of the conditions mentioned therein:

- i. The applicant shall apply for renewal of No Objection Certificate at least ninety days prior to expiry of its validity.
- ii. Application for renewal of No Objection Certificate shall be accompanied by the Compliance Report.
- iii. Before granting renewal, Central Ground Water Authority or State/ Ut Authority shall satisfy itself that the conditions of No Objection Certificate have been complied with.
- iv. In case of change in category of the assessment unit, renewals would be granted with conditions as laid down for new category.
- v. No Objection Certificate will be renewed for the terms specified for various uses as follows:

Category	Use	Term of renewal
Critical, Semi-critical and safe	Infrastructure projects for drinking & domestic use and urban Water Supply Agencies	5 years
	Industries	3 years
	Mines	2 years
Over exploited	All users in 'Over-exploited areas'	2 years

- vi. If the application for renewal is submitted in time and the CGWA/ the respective State/ Ut Authority is unable to process the application in time, No Objection Certificate shall be deemed to be extended till the date of renewal of No Objection Certificate.
- vii. If the proponent fails to apply for renewal within 3 months from the date of expiry of No Objection Certificate, the proponent shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the period starting from the date of expiry of No Objection Certificate till No Objection Certificate is renewed by the competent authority.

### 12.0 Extension of No Objection Certificate

If the proponent is unable to construct the well(s) during the validity period of No Objection Certificate for genuine reasons, the proponent will have to apply for extension of No Objection Certificate. Application for extension should be supported by documents justifying the reasons for delay. Other conditions for grant of extension of No Objection Certificate will be the same as that for fresh No Objection Certificate.

Extension of No Objection Certificate will be granted for a maximum period of two years. No further extension will be granted after the expiry of the extended period. In that case, the applicant will have to apply afresh for grant of No Objection Certificate.

### 13.0 Delegation of powers against illegal groundwater withdrawal

Central Ground Water Authority has appointed the District Magistrate/ District Collector/ Sub Divisional Magistrates of each Revenue District/Sub division as Authorized Officers, who have been delegated the power to seal illegal wells, disconnect electricity supply to the energised well, launch prosecution against offenders etc. including grievance redressal related to ground water in their respective jurisdictions.

In order to further decentralise and strengthen the monitoring and compliance mechanism as per the guidelines, officials of concerned Departments of Revenue and Industries of the States/Uts shall be appointed as Authorised Officers in consultation with the State/Ut Governments.

A copy of the No Objection Certificate issued by the CGWA in the No Objection Certificate Application Portal (NOCAP) will be forwarded to the respective District Magistrate/ District Collector. In case of any violation of the directions of Central Ground Water Authority and non-fulfilment of the conditions laid

down in the No Objection Certificate, the Authorised Officers will file appropriate Petition/Original Application etc under sections 15 to 21 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in appropriate Courts.

#### 14.0 Ground Water Level Monitoring

All the project proponents (drawing ground water more than 10 cum/d) have to mandatorily construct Piezometers (observation wells) within their premises for monitoring of the ground water levels. Such a mechanism of compliance conditions has been made to ensure that every month the ground water level in the project area can be monitored and observed. In this regard the necessary criteria for monitoring of water levels through piezometers by the project proponents is given in Table 14.1.

S.No.	Quantum of Ground water withdrawal (cum/d)	No. of piezometer required	Monitoring mechanism		
			Manual	DWLR	DWLR with Telemetry
1	<10	0	0	0	0
2	11-50	1	1	0	0
3	51-500	1	0	1	0
4	>500	2	0	1	1

The piezometer shall be suitably located to ensure that zone of aquifer tapped in the piezometer is the same as that of the pumping well.

#### 15.0 Environmental Compensation

Extraction of ground water for commercial use by industries, infrastructure units and mining projects without a valid No Objection Certificate from appropriate authority shall be considered illegal and such entities shall be liable to pay Environmental Compensation for the quantum of ground water so extracted. The norms prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shall be utilized for calculating the Environmental compensation as mentioned below:

$$EC_{GW} = \text{Ground water consumption per day} \times \text{Environmental Compensation rate (ECR}_{GW}) \times \text{No. of days} \times \text{Deterrence factor}$$

where ground water consumption is in m<sup>3</sup>/day and ECR<sub>GW</sub> in Rs./ cum

##### 15.1 Rates of Environmental Compensation:

Rates of Environmental Compensation (ECR<sub>GW</sub>) for various types of users in different categories of assessment units are given in Table 15.1 to 15.3.

**Table 15.1 : ECR<sub>GW</sub> for Packaged Drinking Water units**

S.No.	Area Category	Water Consumption (cum/day)			
		<200/	200 to <1000	1000 to <5000	5000 & above
		Environmental Compensation Rate (ECR <sub>GW</sub> ) in Rs./m <sup>3</sup>			
	Safe	12	18	24	30
2	Semi critical	24	36	48	60
3	Critical	36	48	66	90
4	Over- exploited	48	72	96	120

**Note :-**Minimum EC<sub>GW</sub> shall not be less than Rs 1,00,000/-

**Table 15.2: ECR<sub>GW</sub> for Mining/ infrastructure dewatering projects**

S.No.	Area Category	Water Consumption (cum/day)			
		<200	200 to <1000	1000 to <5000	5000 & above
		Environmental Compensation Rate (ECR <sub>GW</sub> ) in Rs./m <sup>3</sup>			
1	Safe	15	21	30	40
2	Semi critical	30	45	60	75
3	Critical	45	60	85	115
4	Over- exploited	60	90	120	150

**Note :-**Minimum EC<sub>GW</sub> shall not be less than Rs 1,00,000/-

**Table 15.3: ECR<sub>GW</sub> for Industrial units**

S.No.	Area Category	Water Consumption (cum/day)			
		<200	200 to <1000	1000 to <5000	5000 & above
		Environmental Compensation Rate (ECR <sub>GW</sub> ) in Rs./m <sup>3</sup>			
1	Safe	20	30	40	50
2	Semi critical	40	60	80	100
3	Critical	60	80	110	150
4	Over- exploited	80	120	160	200

**Note :-**Minimum EC<sub>GW</sub> shall not be less than Rs 1,00,000/-

### 15.2 Deterrent Factors to compensate losses and environmental damage (for packaged drinking water units, mining, industries and infrastructural dewatering projects)

The following deterrent factors based on the duration of illegal ground water extraction shall be levied to compensate for the losses and environmental damages as detailed in Table 15.4.

**Table 15.4: Deterrent factor based on quantum of ground water withdrawal and number of years of illegal withdrawal**

S.No.	Water Consumption	Deterrence Factor		
		< 2 years	2-5 years	>5 years
1	<1000 KLD	1.00	1.00	1.25
2	1000-5000 KLD	1.00	1.00	1.50
3	>5000 KLD	1.00	1.25	2.00

**Note:** KLD – Kilolitre per day

### 16.0 Provision of Penalty

Penalty shall be imposed on the proponents for non-compliance of No Objection Certificate conditions issued by the appropriate authority. Rates of penalty proposed for non-compliance of various conditions of No Objection Certificate are given in Table 16.1. The rates of the penalty shall be reviewed periodically with the approval of competent authority in Ministry of Jal Shakti.

**Table 16.1: Penalty provision for non Compliance of No Objection Certificate conditions**

S. No.	Items	Charges in Rs.
1	Non installation/faulty Digital water Flow meter with telemetry system.	200000
2	Non disclosure/ construction of additional groundwater abstraction structures a) Non-functional Structures. b) Defunct/Abandoned Note: Given rates are for unit non-functional/defunct/abandoned structures. This shall be multiplied with total such structures to arrive at consolidated penalty.	200000 100000
3	Reporting of fresh water zones as Brackish / Saline zones in application.	200000
4	Non Installation of Piezometer.	200000
5	Non Installation/faulty DWLR/Telemetry system	100000
6	Non Construction/Inadequate capacity of Recharge / Water conservation structures.	500000
7	Non maintenance of Recharge structures.	200000
8	Injection of treated/untreated water into the aquifer system. Note: In addition to penalty, the proponent shall bear the cost of aquifer remediation as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.	1000000
9	Non Submission of Water level/Water quality Data.	50000
10	Non-maintenance of log book of daily withdrawal/non submission of Groundwater abstraction data.	50000
11	Non submission of photograph of recharge structure(s).	50000
12	Non Submission of Self Compliance report.	100000
13	Construction of groundwater abstraction structures by un authorized/unregistered Drilling Rigs (per structures).	100000
14	Non registration of water supply tankers.	500000
15	Submission of false information/ undertaking.	100000

Charges shall also be payable for correction/modification in the existing issued No Objection Certificate letter. The details of such charges are given in [Table 16.2](#).

**Table 16.2: Proposed Charges for correction/Modification in the existing issued No Objection Certificate**

S. No.	Items	Charges in Rs.
1	Change in recharge quantum	10000
2	Change in User ID.	5000
3	Change in firm Name	5000
4	Extension of No Objection Certificate	5000
5	Issuance of duplicate No Objection Certificate	5000
6	Issuance of corrigendum to No Objection Certificate	5000
7	Any other items/corrections etc	5000

**17.0 Other important Conditions (Applicable to all):**

- i. Sale of ground water by a person/ agency not having valid no objection certificate from CGWA/State Ground Water Authority is not permitted.
- ii. In infrastructure projects, paved/parking area must be covered with interlocking/perforated tiles or other suitable measures to ensure groundwater infiltration/harvesting.
- iii. In case of Infrastructure projects, the firm/entity shall ensure implementation of dual water supply system in the projects. Compliance of the same shall be submitted through the web portal.
- iv. Non-compliance of conditions mentioned in the No Objection Certificate may be taken as sufficient reason for cancellation of no objection certificate accorded/ non-renewal of No Objection Certificate.
- v. No application shall be entertained without supporting documents as specified in relevant sections.
- vi. Abstraction structure(s) should be located inside the premises of project property.
- vii. Self compliance of conditions laid down in the no objection certificate shall be reported by the users online in the web portal of Central Ground Water Authority/state Ground Water Authority.
- viii. Processing fee prescribed, if any, from time to time shall be charged for various services.

**Note:**

1. Guidelines are subject to modification from time to time.
2. In case of any discrepancy between Hindi and English versions of this document including the annexures, the English version shall prevail.

**Annexure I****Estimation of Water Requirements for drinking and domestic use****(Source: National Building Code 2016, BIS)**

## a) Residential Buildings:

Accommodations	Population
1 Bedroom dwelling unit	4
2 Bedroom dwelling unit	5
3 Bedroom dwelling unit	6
4 Bedroom dwelling unit and above	7

**Notes:**

- 1) The above figures consider a domestic household including support personnel, wherever applicable.
- 2) For plotted development, the population may be arrived at after due consideration of the expected number and type of domestic household units.
- 3) Dwelling unit under EWS category shall have population requirement of 4 and studio apartment shall have population requirement of 2.

As a general rule the following rates per capita per day may be considered for domestic and non-domestic needs:

## a) For communities with populations up to 20,000:

1)	Water supply through stand post:	40 lphd (Min)
2)	Water supply through house service: connection	70 to 100 lphd

- b) For communities with: 100 to 135 lphd  
population 20,000 to 100,00 together with  
full flushing system
- c) For communities with population: 150 to 200 lphd  
above 100,000 together with  
full flushing system

**Note**—The value of water supply given as 150 to 200 litre per head per day may be reduced to 135 litre per head per day for houses for Medium Income Group (MIG) and Low Income Groups (LIG) and Economically Weaker Section of Society (EWS), depending upon prevailing conditions and availability of water.

Out of the 150 to 200 litre per head per day, 45 litre per head per day may be taken for flushing requirements and the remaining quantity for other domestic purposes.

**A. Water Requirements for Buildings Other than Residences**

Sl No.	Type of Building	Domestic litres per head/ day	Flushing Litres per head/ day	Total Consumption Litres per head/ day
1.	Factories including canteen where bath rooms are required to be provided	30	15	45
2.	Factories including canteen where no bath rooms are required to be provided	20	10	30
3.	Hospital (excluding laundry and kitchen):			
	a) Number of beds not exceeding 100	230	110	340
	b) Number of beds exceeding 100	300	150	450
	c) Out Patient Department (OPD)	10	5	15
4.	Nurses' homes and medical quarters	90	45	135
5.	Hostels	90	45	135
6.	Hotels (up to 3 star) excluding laundry, kitchen, staff and water bodies	120	60	180
7.	Hotels (4 star and above) excluding laundry, kitchen, staff and water bodies	260	60	320
8.	Offices (including canteen)	25	20	45
9.	Restaurants and food court including water requirement for kitchen:			
	a) Restaurants	55 per seat	15 per seat	70 per seat
	b) Food Court	25 per seat	10 per seat	35 per seat
10.	Clubhouse	25	20	45
11.	Stadiums	4	6	10

12.	Cinemas, concert halls and theatres and multiplex	5 per seat	10 per seat	15 per seat
13.	Schools/Educational institutions:			
	a) Without boarding facilities	25	20	45
	b) With boarding facilities	90	45	135
14.	Shopping and retail (mall)			
	a) Staff	25	20	45
	b) Visitors	5	10	15
15.	Traffic Terminal stations			
	a) Airports	40	30	70
	b) Railway stations (Junction) with bathing facility	40	30	70
	c) Railway stations (Junction) without bathing facility	30	15	45
	d) Railway stations (Intermediate) with bathing facility	25	20	45
	e) Railway stations (Intermediate) without bathing facility	15	10	25
	f) Interstate bus terminals	25	20	45
	g) Intrastate Bus Terminals/Metro Stations	10	5	15

**Notes:**

1. For calculating water demand for visitors, consumption of 15 litre per head per day may be taken.
2. The water demand includes requirement of patients, attendants, visitors and staff. Additional water demand for kitchen, laundry and clinical water shall be computed as per actual requirements.
3. The number of persons shall be determined by average number of passengers handled by stations, with due considerations given to the staff and vendors who are using these facilities.
4. Consideration should be given for seasonal average peak requirements.
5. The hospitals may be categorized as Category A (25 to 50 beds), Category B(51 to 100 beds), Category C (101 to 300 beds), Category D (301 to 500) and Category E (501 to 750 beds).

**Annexure II****Guidelines for construction of Piezometers and monitoring of Ground Water Levels and Quality**

Piezometer is a borewell/tubewell used only for measuring the water level by lowering a tape/sounder or automatic / digital water level measuring equipment. It is also used to take water sample for water quality testing whenever needed. General guidelines for installation of piezometers are as follows:

- The piezometer is to be installed/constructed at the minimum distance of 50 m from the pumping well through which ground water is being withdrawn. The diameter of the piezometer should be about four inches to six inches.
- The depth of the piezometer should be the same as that of the pumping well from which ground water is being abstracted. If, more than one pumping wells are constructed tapping aquifers at different depths, more than one piezometers shall be required to be constructed tapping different aquifers as in the pumping wells.

- The measurement of water level in piezometer should be taken, only after the pumping from the surrounding tubewells has been stopped for about four to six hours.
- The ground water quality has to be monitored once in a year during pre-monsoon (April/ May) period by industries and mines drawing ground water. Samples of ground water should be analyzed from NABL accredited laboratory.
- A permanent display board should be installed at Piezometer/ Tubewell site for providing the location, piezometer/ tubewell number, depth and zone tapped of piezometer/tubewell for standard referencing and identification.
- Any other site specific requirement regarding safety and access for measurement may be taken care off.

### Annexure III

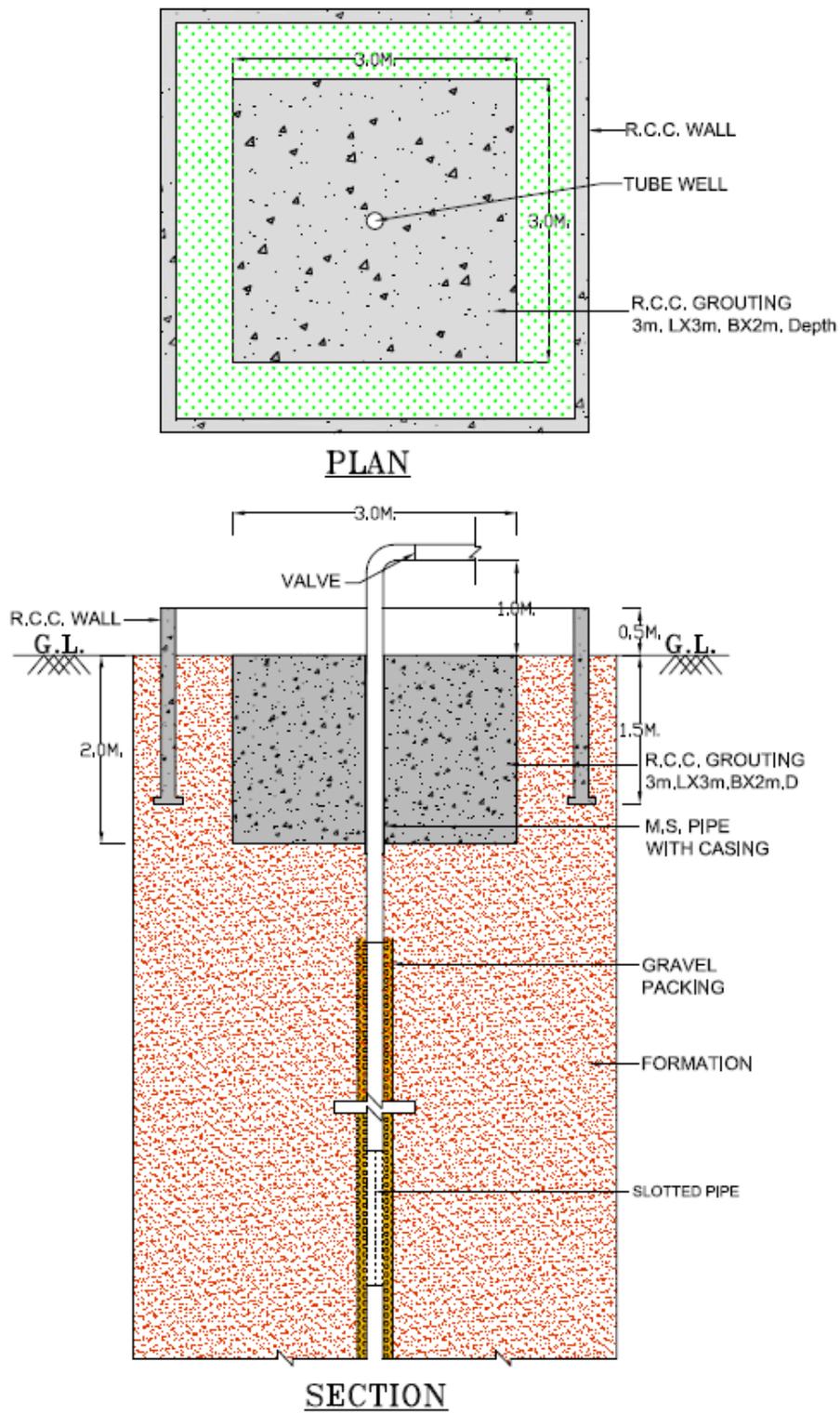
#### **Measures to be adopted to ensure prevention from pollution in the plant premises of polluting industries/ projects**

It has been observed that ground water in and around polluting industries like Tannery, Slaughter Houses, Dye, Chemical, Coalwashery, other hazardous units, etc., is polluted. In order to prevent further deterioration of ground water quality, it is essential to take all necessary measures for well head protection. All industries/ projects falling under this category are hereby directed to follow the under mentioned procedure both for existing and new category.

1. No tube well/ bore well / dug well should be constructed in the vicinity of the processing unit. Tube well/ bore well should be constructed at the place which is hygienically maintained.
2. Only Mild Steel pipe should be used for assembly/ casing and PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) or similar pipes should not be used. The tube well/ bore well having PVC or similar pipes should be abandoned and filled back.
3. Around the tube well/ bore well, RCC (Reinforced Concrete Cement) grouting of 3 meters (length) x 3 meters (width) x 2 meters (depth) must be provided. The pipe of the tube well/ bore well must be raised 1 meter above ground level (1 magl). The tube well/ bore well must be surrounded by RCC wall of 0.5 meter height and 1.5 meter depth to prevent any surface contamination to enter the constructed tube well/ bore well. Plan/Sectional diagram is enclosed for reference (Appendix 1 and 2).
3. The tube well/ bore well must be fitted with NRV (Non Return Valve) in order to ensure that the constructed tube well/ bore well is exclusively used for abstraction of ground water only.
4. At no point of time there should be any injection of any water or fluid into the constructed tube well/ bore well/ Piezometer.
5. The industries/ projects under this category should not implement any recharge measures within the plant premises.
6. Any tube well/ bore well located/ constructed in the vicinity of STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) or ETP (Effluent Treatment Plant) should be abandoned and filled back.
7. The piezometer to be constructed for monitoring purpose should follow the same procedure as that for tube well/ bore well for such industries/ projects.

Appendix 1

Plan/ Sectional diagram showing well head protection





4. Details of Geophysical studies carried out in and around the project area. Ground water resources computation of the block in which the project falls.
5. Approved Mine plan in case of mines and detailed dewatering plan in case of mine/ infrastructure dewatering projects.
6. Proposed usage of pumped water in case of mining/ infrastructure dewatering projects.
7. Comprehensive assessment of the impact on the ground water regime in and around the project area highlighting the risks and proposed management strategies proposed to overcome any significant environmental issues.
8. Proposed measures for disposal of waste water by industries drawing saline water.
9. Measures to be adopted for water conservation which include recycling, reuse, treatment, etc. This includes the water balance chart being adopted by the firm along with details of water conservation methods to be adopted.
  - Brief write up along with capacity and flow chart of Sewage Treatment Plants / Effluent Treatment Plants / Combined Effluent Treatment Plants existing/ proposed within the project.
  - Details of water conservation measures to be adopted to reduce/ save the ground water.
  - Total water balance chart showing the usage of water for various processes.
10. Any other details pertaining to the project.

## Annexure V

### **Format of the Report on ground water conditions (for mining projects)**

Introduction

Project description

Background

Objectives and scope

Regional setting

Location

Landuse

Climate

Topography and drainage

Geology –Regional and Local

General Hydrogeology (aquifer types, aquifer depth, zone tapped etc.)

Groundwater condition (In core and buffer zones)

Spatial and temporal variations in water levels Groundwater quality (Shallow and deep aquifer)

Impact of groundwater extraction on local groundwater

Hydrograph of water level/piezometer in monitoring wells

Trend analysis of historical water levels Flow net analysis (groundwater flow direction)

Year wise/ bench wise mine dewatering computation as per approved mine plan

Conclusions

## Annexure VI

**Indicative list of Infrastructure projects**

Residential townships including commercial buildings
Office building
School
College
University
Special Economic Zone
Metro Station
Railway Station
Bus Depot
Airport
Seaport
Highway infrastructure
Fire station
Warehouse
Business Plaza
Malls & Multiplex
Hospitals
Nursing Homes
Resort
Hotel/ Restaurant/ Food Plaza
Holiday home/Guest house/ Hostels
Banquet Hall/ Marriage Gardens
IT Complex
Logistics & Cargo
Clubs
Trade Centre

## Annexure -VII

**Supreme Court Order in Civil Writ petition 36 of 2009 regarding measures for prevention of fatal accidents of small children due to their falling into abandoned bore wells and tube wells**

In Re: Measures for prevention of fatal accidents of small children due to their falling into abandoned bore wells and tube wells

Union of India and Ors.

Respondents(s)

**ORDER**

With this Court issuing requisite guidelines vide order dated 11th February, 2010, subject to slight modifications, nothing survives in the present writ petition.

That modification is as follows:

- (i) The owner of the land/ premises, before taking any steps for constructing bore well/ tube well must inform in writing to the concerned authorities in the area, i.e., District Collector/ District Magistrate/ Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat/ any other Statutory Authority/ concerned officers of the Department of Ground Water/ Public Health/ Municipal Corporation, as the case may be, about the construction of bore well/ tube well.
- (ii) Registration of all the drilling agencies, namely, Government/ Semi Government, Private etc. should be mandatory with the district administration/ Statutory Authority wherever applicable.
- (iii) Erection of signboard at the time of construction near the well with the following details:-
  - (a) Complete address of the drilling agency at the time of construction/ rehabilitation of well.
  - (b) Complete address of the user agency/owner of the well.
- (iv) Erection of barbed wire fencing or any other suitable barrier around the well during construction.
- (v) Construction of cement/ concrete platform measuring 0.50x0.50x0.60 meter (0.30 meter above ground level and 0.30 meter below ground level) around the well casing.
- (vi) Capping of well assembly by welding steel plate or by providing a strong cap to be fixed to the casing pipe with bolts & nuts.
- (vii) In case of pump repair, the tube well should not be left uncovered.
- (viii) Filling of mud pits and channels after completion of works.
- (ix) Filling up abandoned bore wells by clay/sand/boulders/pebbles/drill cuttings etc. from bottom to ground level.
- (x) On completion of the drilling operations at a particular location, the ground conditions are to be restored as before the start of drilling.
- (xi) District Collector should be empowered to verify that the above guidelines are being followed and proper monitoring check about the status of bore holes/ tube wells are being taken care through the concerned state/ Central Government agencies.
- (xii) District/ Block/ Village wise status of bore wells/tube wells drilled viz. No. of wells in use, No. of abandoned bore wells/ tube wells found open, No. of abandoned bore wells/ tube wells properly filled up to ground level and balance number of abandoned bore wells/ tube wells to be filled up to ground level is to be maintained at District Level.

In rural areas, the monitoring of the above is to be done through Village Sarpanch and the Executive from the Agriculture Department.

In case of urban areas, the monitoring of the above is to be done through Junior Engineer and the Executive from the concerned Department of Ground Water/Public Health/ Municipal Corporation etc.

- (xiii) If a bore well/ tube well is 'Abandoned' at any stage, a certificate from the concerned department of Ground Water/ Public Health/ Municipal Corporation/ Private Contractor etc. must be obtained by the aforesaid agencies that the 'Abandoned' bore well/tube well is properly filled upto the ground level. Random inspection of the abandoned wells is also to be done by the Executive of the concerned agency/ department. Information on all such data on the above are to be maintained in the District Collector/ Block Development Office of the State.

We are informed that the last paragraph of the earlier order dated 11th February, 2010, concerning publicity has been duly complied with.

Subject to the above, the writ petition is disposed of.

.....CJL.  
[S.H. KAPADIA]

.....J.  
[K.S. RADHAKRISHNANA]

.....J.  
[SWATANTER KUMAR]

New Delhi,  
August 6, 2010

### **ANNEXURE VIII**

#### **List of States/Union territories where ground water extraction is being regulated by Central Ground Water Authority**

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Assam
3. Arunachal Pradesh
4. Bihar
5. Chhattisgarh
6. Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
7. Gujarat
8. Haryana
9. Jharkhand
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Manipur
13. Meghalaya
14. Mizoram
15. Nagaland
16. Odisha
17. Punjab
18. Rajasthan
19. Sikkim
20. Tripura
21. Uttar Pradesh
22. Uttarakhand
23. Andhra Pradesh (only mining projects)
24. Telangana (only mining projects)

**Glossary of technical terms used**

1. **Safe area:** Area categorized as SAFE from the ground water resources point of view, based on the latest ground water resources assessment carried out jointly by CGWB and State ground water organizations. Details available on the websites of NOCAP and CGWB.
2. **Semi-critical area:** Area categorized as SEMI-CRITICAL from the ground water resources point of view, based on the latest ground water resources assessment carried out jointly by CGWB and State ground water organizations. Details available on the websites of NOCAP and CGWB.
3. **Critical area:** Area categorized as CRITICAL from the ground water resources point of view, based on the latest ground water resources assessment carried out jointly by CGWB and State ground water organisations. Details available on the websites of NOCAP and CGWB.
4. **Over-exploited area:** Area categorized as OVER-EXPLOITED from the ground water resources point of view, based on the latest ground water resources assessment carried out jointly by CGWB and State ground water organisations. Details available on the websites of NOCAP and CGWB.
5. **Aquifer:** Geological formation capable of storing and transmitting ground water.
6. **Deeper Aquifer:** In areas having multiple aquifer system, the aquifer(s) occurring below the uppermost aquifer.
7. **Well:** Any structure used for the extraction of groundwater, including open wells, dug wells, bore wells, dug-cum-bore wells, tube wells, filter points, collector wells, infiltration galleries, recharge wells, or any of their combinations or variations.
8. **Government Agency:** May be Central or State Government body.
9. **Supplier:** Government/ Government approved Water Supply Agency.
10. **Mine:** Area where mining activity is taking place, or area abandoned after mining.
11. **Illegal Ground Water abstraction Structure:** Any energized abstraction structure viz. dugwell, tubewell, borewell which is being used to withdraw ground water without valid No Objection Certificate from Central Ground Water Authority.
12. **Rainwater Harvesting:** The technique or system of collection and storage of rainwater, at micro watershed scale, including roof-top harvesting, for future use or for recharge of groundwater.
13. **Mining Project:** Project which involves mining activity either open cast or underground or both.
14. **Ground Water Draft:** Quantum of ground water withdrawal.
15. **Saline Water:** Water having salinity in excess of 2500  $\mu$ siemens/cm at 25<sup>0</sup>C.
16. **Water Table Intersection:** Intersection of the water table on excavation of the overlying material due to mining or other activities.
17. **Drinking and domestic use:** Besides drinking & domestic use of households, this category will cover drinking requirement of industries not requiring water for industrial process; drinking, washing, cleaning use etc. in case of hospitals, hotels, malls & multiplexes, institutions, offices, banquet halls, fire stations, metro stations, railway stations, airports, sea ports, stadia etc.
18. **Recycle/Reuse:** Using treated waste water for various purposes/ putting water to multiple uses.
19. **Government Department:** Either Central Government or State Government.
20. **Municipality:** Municipality, a Municipal Corporation or similar body of local urban governance by any other name.
21. **Groundwater:** Water, which exists below the surface in the zone of saturation and can be extracted through wells or any other means or emerges as springs and base flows in streams and rivers;
22. **Bgl :** Below Ground Level.
23. **BCM :** Billion cubic metres.

24. **Groundwater Abstraction structure:** Structure used to withdraw groundwater like bore well / tube well / dug well/dug cum bore well/tunnel well.
25. **Observation well or Piezometer:** A bore well/tube well used only for measuring the water level/piezometric head and to take water sample periodically but not used for groundwater abstraction.
26. **Water Audit:** A method of quantifying water use in simple or complex systems, with a view to reducing water usage and often saving money on otherwise unnecessary water use.
27. **Ground water pollution:** If concentration of any parameter in ground water exceeds the maximum permissible limit for drinking water prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.
28. **Cooperative Group Housing Societies/ Builder flats:** A Housing Society is a society formed by house owners within a residential complex. The housing society formed must be formally registered with registrar of co-operatives.
29. **KLD – Kilo Litre per day**
30. **EC<sub>GW</sub>** - Environmental compensation for drawing illegal ground water.
31. **EC<sub>GWR</sub>** - Environmental compensation rates for drawing illegal ground water.

## ANNEXURE X

### Annual water audits by the industries (Source – CII)

Water audit is a systematic process of objectively obtaining a water balance by measuring flow of water from the site of water withdrawal or treatment, through the distribution system, and into areas where it is used and finally discharged. Conducting a water audit involves calculating water balance, water use and identifying ways for saving water.

Water audit involves preliminary water survey and detailed water audit. Preliminary water survey is conducted to collect background information regarding plant activities, water consumption and water discharge pattern and water billing, rates and water cess. After the analysis of the secondary data collected from the industry, detailed water audit is conducted, which involves the following steps:

- On site training and discussion with facility manager and personnel
- Water system analysis
- Quantification of baseline water map
- Monitoring and measurements using pressure and flow meters and various other devices
- Quantification of inefficiencies and leaks
- Quantification of water quality loads and discharges
- Quantification of variability in flows and quality parameters
- Strategies for water treatment and reuse or direct use

A detailed water balance is finally developed. Water quality requirement at various user areas is mapped, which helps in developing 'recycle' and 'reuse' opportunities.

The detailed water audit report contains the following:

- Water consumption and wastewater generation pattern
- Specific water use and conservation
- Complete water balance of the facility
- Water saving opportunities
- Method of implementing the proposals
- Full description and figures
- Investment required

Industries can undertake following measures for water conservation:

- Setting up of norms for water budgeting
- Modernization of industrial process to reduce water consumption
- Recycling water with a re-circulating cooling system
- Ozonation cooling water approach which can result in five fold reduction in blow down when compared to traditional chemical treatment
- Reduction in reuse of de-ionized water by eliminating some plenum flushes, converting from a continuous flow to an intermittent flow system and improving control on the use
- Use of waste water for gardening
- Proper processing of effluents to adhere to the norms of disposal.

Item No. 04

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

(By Video Conferencing)

Original Application No. 218/2020

Devi Das Khatri

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent

Date of hearing: 09.10.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Anoop Agarwal, Advocate

**ORDER**

1. Prayer in this application is to quash Notification dated 24.09.2020 issued by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Thereby, Guidelines have been notified to regulate and control the ground water extraction in the country under Section 3 (3) read with Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

2. The applicant claims to be an environmentalist. It is stated that the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) was constituted in the year 1998 in pursuance of order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to regulate and control development and management of ground water resources in the country. The CGWA issued Guidelines on 15.11.2012 which were replaced by further Guidelines dated 16.11.2015. The Tribunal dealt with the matter vide order dated 15.04.2015 in O.A No. 204/2014,

*Krishna Kant Singh v. M/s Deoria Paper Ltd* and laid down that ground water extraction should only be after permission even if such unit existed prior to the 2015 Guidelines. 2015 Guidelines provided for recharge of ground water atleast to the extent of 50% of the ground water extracted. The CGWA issued further Guidelines on 11.10.2017, published on 13.10.2017 which lacked mechanism for ensuring ground water recharge. Objections were filed thereto. The CGWA published the said Guidelines on 12.12.2018, without considering the objections of the applicant. The said Guidelines were disapproved by this Tribunal vide order dated 03.01.2019 in *O.A No. 176/ 2015, Shailesh Singh v. Hotel Holiday Regency, Moradabad & Ors.* On 20.07.2020, the Tribunal passed a further order for taking steps for sustainable ground water management, in terms of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, the impugned order dated 24.09.2020 fails to ensure sustainable development, in terms of order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Tribunal.

3. The applicant has *inter alia* pointed out that without any study of carrying capacity, the Policy allows concession to Micro and small enterprises drawing ground water less than 10 cum/day as well as for bulk water supply. There is no uniform policy for monitoring ground water recharge mechanism and to check the depleting ground water levels in the country. Water is a scarce resource on which life is dependent. Extraction thereof has to be duly regulated. In areas where there is water scarcity, extraction can be allowed on stringent conditions of ensuring recharge.

4. We find that the Tribunal has elaborately dealt with the matter in recent order dated 20.07.2020 and tested the stand of the CGWA with

reference to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M.C Mehta v. Union of India & Ors. (1997) 11 SCC 312*. In the said order, the Hon'ble Supreme Court noted that falling ground water level was a matter of concern and there was over-exploitation of ground water in certain areas. Water resources were required to be managed to achieve all aspirational goal of 'sustainable development' based on the principle of 'Intra and Inter-Generational Equity', 'Precautionary' principle and conservation of natural resources. The Tribunal referred to media reports about decline in the water tables in certain areas affecting the river flow and sustenance of water bodies affecting human life, wildlife and eco-system as a whole. Extraction in scarce water areas for commercial purposes was against principle of 'Sustainable Development'. The CGWA has notified 'over-exploited' 'critical' and 'semi-critical' areas depending upon the water table. In spite of such classification, effective steps to regulate extraction of ground water were not being taken. The graph of water table was continuously declining in certain areas. Extraction for commercial purposes was adversely affecting not only the river flow but also the availability of water for drinking purposes. No effective regulatory mechanism had been set up. The CGWA was repeatedly issuing notification liberalising the ground water extraction in the water scarcity areas in spite of need for stringent action, contrary to the very purpose for which the CGWA was setup. There was no effective mechanism to check violation by way of recovery of adequate compensation which was laid down by this Tribunal based on expert studies. The Tribunal accordingly issued directions and sought compliance report for which the matter is pending.

5. According to the applicant, the impugned Notification, instead of complying with the directions of the Tribunal, is in reverse direction and

destructive of concept of 'Sustainable Development' which is to be enforced by the Tribunal.

6. We find that the impugned order is statutorily appealable under Section 16 (g) of the NGT Act, 2010. Thus, instead of an application, proper remedy of the appellant is an appeal. We direct conversion of the application to Appeal. The Registry may accordingly register the matter as Appeal.

7. We are of the view that there are arguable points which are raised in the appeal which will require reconsideration. The Appeal is admitted. Issue notice to the Ministry of Jal Shakti. We are of the opinion that the CPCB may need to be heard in the matter though it has not been included in the respondent's list. The CPCB is accordingly added as a party *suo moto*. Notice be issued to the CPCB also. The appellant may serve notices with complete set of papers and file an affidavit of service within one week. The response may be filed within six weeks from today by e-mail at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in) preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

List the Appeal for final hearing on 11.02.2021.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S. P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

October 09, 2020  
Original Application No. 218/2020  
AK