

I/29616/2024

संघ राज्य प्रशासन, लद्दाख

जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी/
सींचाई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग



THE ADMINISTRATION OF
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

PHE/I&FC DEPARTMENT

F. No. M/995/2023-(PHE, I&FC) SECTION/2569-2588

ई-मेल/email:pstocomsecutl@gmail.com

यूटी सचिवालय, लेह/UT Secretariat, Leh,
Dated:23.12.2024.

Subject: Illegal extraction of Ground Water Resources in Leh District.

**Order No.91-LA(PHE/I&FC) of 2024,
Dated:23.12.2024.**

WHEREAS, Ladakh is an arid to semi-arid region with limited water resources, and most of the water sources are seasonal such as glacial, and permafrost melt water and the visible effects of climate change, in the form of decrease in snowfall, thinning glaciers, retreating glacial lakes and streams have been witnessed in the region;

WHEREAS, some parts of the Union territory have become water stressed and with the rapid growth in demand for water due to rapid urbanization, high tourist growth and migrating population including traders and labourers , may pose a serious challenges to water security in future; which coupled with growth in economic activity inevitably may further lead to an increase in water demands for a variety of purposes, including domestic, commercial, industrial, irrigation, hydropower generation, and recreation;

WHEREAS, due to limited water resources in the Union territory, some areas particularly in the Leh District have become increasingly dependent on groundwater, resulting in over-exploitation of groundwater resources, raising concerns about the need for scientific management, conservation, and regulation of the ground water resources;

WHEREAS, the Ground Water Resources Estimation report as of March,2024 of the Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti has reported that

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the following areas in Leh Block in Leh District as '**Semi Critical**' for extraction and use of the ground water resources;

S.No	District/Tehsil	Areas
1.	Leh	Gompa Gangless
2.		Sankar Yourtung
3.		Leh
4.		Skara
5.		Choglamsar
6.		Saboo
7.		Spituk
8.		Phey
9.		Phyang

WHEREAS, further extraction of the Ground Water Resources in the above areas may lead to critical situation of the availability of ground water resources in these areas for meeting the increased demand of water resources;

WHEREAS, the Central Ground Water Authority in light of the directions of the Hon'ble Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the O.A. No. 694/2023 tilted "*UN predicts Groundwater level in India will reduce to low by 2025*" and in exercise of Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with paragraph (2) of the Notification of Government of India vide S.O. 38 (E) dated: 14.01.1997, has passed the following direction to the Union territory;

1. *Enforce and monitor the Groundwater drawl in the UT of Ladakh and an action taken report on the illegal borewells in be provided to the Authority by 20.12.2024.*
2. *Environmental Compensation (EC) as per MoJS guidelines be imposed on the illegal ground water withdrawal by Housing Complexes, Industrial units, commercial establishment and several other entities, till the EC provision is being incorporated in the State Ground Water Authority guidelines.*

NOW THEREFORE, in view of the above, extraction of ground water through borewells in the above areas will be regulated strictly as per provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Water Resources (Regulation & Management) Act, 2010 read with J&K Water Resources (Regulation & Management) Rules, 2011 and digging of new

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borewells for extraction of ground water resources in the above semi critical areas of Leh district shall be deemed to have been banned and declared as illegal borewells w.e.f. 01st of December, 2024; except those permitted by authority obtained from the Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Leh.

By order of the Administration of UT of Ladakh.

Sd/-

(माइकल एम. डिसूज़ा / Michael M. D'Souza) IAS

प्रशासनिक सचिव/Administrative Secretary,
PHE/I&FC Department.

Copy to the: -

1. Chairman, Central Water Commission, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
2. Chairman, Central Ground Water Resources Authority, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
3. Joint Secretary (JKL), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
4. Joint Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

Copy also to the: -

1. All Administrative Secretaries, UT of Ladakh.
2. Director General of Police, UT of Ladakh.
3. Commissioner/Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
4. Deputy Commissioners/CEOs, LAHDC, Leh/Kargil.
5. All Heads of the Departments.
6. Joint Director, Information.
7. Chief Engineer, PHE/I&FC (Prescribed Authority) for circulation and enforcement of the of above Order.
8. Superintending Engineers, PHE/I&FC Circles, Leh/Kargil.
9. State Informatics Officer, NIC, Ladakh.
10. OSD to Lieutenant Governor for information of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
11. Pvt. Secretary to Advisor, Ladakh for information of the Advisor.
12. Superintendent, Archives, Archaeology & Museums.
13. Pvt. Secretaries to Chief Executive Councilors, LAHDC, Leh/Kargil *for information of the Hon'ble CECs.*
14. Pvt. Secretary to Administrative Secretary, PHE/I&FC Department for information of the Secretary.
15. Order/Stock file (w.2.s.c)/e-file No.13986.

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(जाकिर हुसैन/Zakir Hussain), JKAS

प्रशासन के उप सचिव/Deputy Secretary to the Administration.