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### **ABSTRACT**

GROUND WATER - Estimation of Ground Water Resources of Tamil Nadu as on, March 2009 - Categorisation of Blocks as Over Exploited, Critical, Semi Critical and Safe for Ground Water Development in Tamil Nadu - Approved – Orders- issued.

### **PUBLIC WORKS (R2) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O. (Ms). No. 52**

**Dated: 02.03.2012**  
**Masi-19, Thiruvalluvarandu 2043**

**Read:**

1. G.O.Ms.No.51, Public Works Department, Dated 11.2.2004.
2. G.O.Ms. No. 24, Public Works Department, Dated. 20.1.2011.

**Read also:**

3. From the Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, Taramani, Chennai- 113, Letter No .DD(G) / 8474/ Assessment / 2011, Dated . 3.8.2011. and 6.9.2011.

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**ORDER:**

In the G.O. first read above, Government approved the categorization of the Panchayat Union Blocks in Tamil Nadu as Over Exploited, Critical, Semi critical and Safe blocks for Ground Water development as on January, 2003. Government also directed that no schemes should be formulated in Over exploited and Critical blocks and in Semi-Critical and Safe blocks all the schemes should be formulated in consultation with State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre of Water Resources Organization in Public Works Department. The term “scheme” excludes energisation of agricultural pumpsets by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. Government further directed that appropriate rain water harvesting and artificial recharge schemes be carried out in all the categories of blocks and while carrying out the above schemes priority shall be given to the over exploited and critical blocks so as to avoid further deterioration. In the G.O. second read above, Government constituted a State Level Committee headed by the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department consisting of 18 Members for re-estimation of Ground Water Assessment as on March, 2009 in Tamil Nadu based on the suggestion of the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources.

2. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has stated that the Ground Water resources of the State of Tamil Nadu are being estimated periodically in co-ordination with the Central Ground Water Board, Government of India, SERC, Chennai, based on the Methodology evolved by Ground Water Resources Estimation Committee, 1997 (GEC 97). The assessment previously estimated for Tamil Nadu is as on January 2003 which was approved by the Government of Tamil Nadu in the G.O. first read above is being followed as of now.

3. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has also stated that as discussed and decided in the VI<sup>th</sup> State Level Technical Co-ordination Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June of 2009, the assessment of State Ground Water Resources as on March 2009 are taken up jointly with Central Ground Water Board and completed. The Technical details involved in the Ground Water Assessment 2009 were placed in the State Level Working Group Meeting under the Chairmanship of the Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, held on 31.12.2010 and got approved. The Ground Water Assessment 2009 was also placed in the "State Level Committee for Re-estimation of Ground Water Resources Assessment" and approved by the said Committee consisting of 18 members under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Public Works Department, Chennai -9, constituted as per G.O.(Ms). No. 24, Public Works Department, dated 20.1.2011 held on 10.2.2011.

4. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has also pointed out that; the National as well as the State Water policies emphasized the periodic assessment of Ground Water Resources. So far once in five years the assessment is being done. The time gap between the two consecutive assessments viz., January 2003 and March 2009 is more than 5 years and the present scenario on Resource Potential and categorization have also changed since then.

5. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has also stated that as per the orders issued in the G.O.Ms.No.51, Public Works Department, dated 11.2.2004 no scheme is permitted in **Over Exploited and Critical Blocks of Tamil Nadu**.

6. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has also furnished abstract of the categorization blocks as on March 2009 as below:-

Sl.No.	Categorisation of Blocks	As on March 2009
1.	Over Exploited Blocks	138 +1
2.	Critical Blocks	33
3.	Semi Critical Blocks	67
4.	Safe Blocks	136
5.	Saline / Poor quality blocks	11
6.	Total Blocks	385 +1

He has also stated that in the above total, 385 denotes, 385 blocks of Tamil Nadu and plus 1 denotes the Chennai District which was taken up as one "assessment unit" since Chennai District is not bifurcated into blocks.

7. The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has submitted the following proposals for issuing of necessary Government Order for the notification of blocks based on the categorization made as on March 2009 for all the District of Tamil Nadu.

1) All the Over Exploited and Critical Blocks as on March 2009 Assessment may be declared as Notified Blocks (A Category – Stage of Groundwater extraction is 90% and above) and all the Semi critical and Safe Blocks

may be declared as Notified Blocks ( B Category – Stage of Groundwater extraction is below 89 % ) .

2) While implementing all the Schemes including Minor Irrigation schemes effectively, the Government may direct that no schemes should be formulated in over exploited and critical blocks - “Notified Blocks – A category – (Stage of Groundwater extraction is 90% and above)” and in the case of Semi Critical and Safe blocks on “Notified Blocks – B category- (Stage of Groundwater extraction is below 89%)”, all the schemes should be formulated through State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre of Water Resources Department and the Chief Engineer / State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre will issue the Ground Water Clearance. (ie. NOC from Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, Water Resources Department).

3)The term “Schemes” excludes energisation of Agricultural pump sets by the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board. The present order may also exclude the Ground Water drawal for a). Domestic purpose by individual household, b). Domestic Infrastructure project (Housing), c).Government’s Drinking Water Supply Schemes and d). non water based industries, (i.e.- the industries which do not require and use water, either as raw material or for other processing). However, the domestic use of water by this non water based industries will be permitted by the Chief Engineer / State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre based on hydro geological conditions. (i.e. NOC from Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre, Water Resources Department, Chennai). The list of non water based industries will be issued by the Industries Department of Government of Tamil Nadu separately.

4). Appropriate rain water harvesting and Artificial recharge schemes should be carried out in the categories viz , Over exploited , Critical , Semi Critical and Safe blocks of TamilNadu. While carrying out the above schemes, priority should be given to marginal quality and bad quality areas so as to avoid further deterioration.

5). All the schemes and proposals based on Ground Water will have to adhere to the Government orders and conditions as at Annexure – II of this proposal.

The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre has therefore requested necessary approval of the Government on Groundwater Assessment as on March 2009.

8. The Government have decided to approve the above proposal of the Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre. Accordingly, the Government approve the categorization of over-exploited, critical, semi-critical and safe blocks as detailed in the Annexure –I of this order. All the over exploited and critical blocks are notified as A category – where Stage of Ground water extraction is 90% and above and all the Semi critical and Safe blocks notified as B Category- where Stage of Ground water extraction is below 89%.

9. The Government further direct that no schemes should be formulated in over exploited and critical blocks “Notified as – A category blocks. In Semi Critical and Safe blocks “Notified as B category blocks, all the schemes should be formulated through State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre of Water Resources Department and the Chief Engineer / State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre will issue “No Objection Certificate” for Ground Water Clearance.

10. The Government further direct to exclude the Ground Water drawal for domestic purpose by individual household; domestic infrastructure project (Housing); Government's Drinking Water Supply Schemes and; non water based industries, (i.e. – the industries which do not require and use water, either as raw material or for other processing). The Chief Engineer, State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre will permit for domestic use of water by this non water based industries by issuing "No Objection Certificate" based on the hydro geological conditions. The list of non water based industries will be issued by the Industries Department of Government of Tamil Nadu separately.

11. The Government further direct that appropriate rain water harvesting and Artificial Recharge Schemes shall be carried out in the categories viz. Over exploited, Critical, Semi Critical and Safe blocks of Tamil Nadu. While carrying out the above schemes, priority shall be given to marginal quality and bad quality areas so as to avoid further deterioration.

12. The Government further direct that all the schemes and proposals based on Ground Water will have to be adhered the Government orders and conditions as detailed in the Annexure –II of this order.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**M.SAI KUMAR  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Chief Engineer State Ground and Surface Water Resources Data Centre), Tharamani, Chennai 113.

All the other Chief Engineers in Public Works Department / Engineer-in-Chief, Water Resources Department, Chennai 5

All District Collectors.

The Director of Rural Development, Chennai 104.

The General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Chennai 34.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Chennai.

The Chief Engineer, Agricultural Engineering Department, Chennai 35

The Director of Agriculture, Chennai 5

The Director of Horticulture, Chennai 5

The Commissioner/Managing Director, Sugar Corporation, Chennai

The Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, Chennai 5.

The Engineering Director, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board, Chennai 5.

The Managing Director, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Chennai - 2.

The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Chennai 2

Copy to

The Energy Department, Chennai 9

The Agriculture Department, Chennai - 9.

The Revenue Department, Chennai 9

The Environment and Forest Department, Chennai 9

The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Chennai 9

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Chennai 9

The Co-operation, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Chennai 9

The Industries Department, Chennai 9 ( for follow up action w.r.to para 10 of this order )

SF/SC.

**/FORWARDED BY ORDER/**

**Sd/-  
SECTION OFFICER.**