

URGENT

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
GROUND WATER DEPARTMENT

No.F. 12 (6)GWD/09

Jaipur, dated 19th Feb.,2010

To

All District Collectors

Sub: Safety Measures for prevention of accidents caused by abandoned borewells/tubewells.

Sir,

The recent incidents of fatal accidents caused due to abandoned boreholes and tubewells have received the attention of the Government and Supreme Court of India. Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 36 of 2009 vide its order dated 11.02.2010 has given following guidelines/safety measures to be observed:

- (i) *The owner of the land/premises, before taking any step for constructing bore well/tube well must inform in writing at least 15 days in advance to the concerned authorities in the area, i.e. District Collector/District Magistrate/ Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat/concerned officers of the Department of Ground Water/Public Health/Municipal Corporation, as the case may be, about the construction of bore-well/tubewell.*
- (ii) *Registration of all the drilling agencies, viz., Govt./Semi Govt./Private etc. should be mandatory with the district administration.*
- (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 0.50x 0.50x 0.60 meter (0.30 meter above ground level and 0.30 meter below ground level) around the well casing.*

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- (vi) *Capping of well assembly by welding steel plate or by providing a strong cap to be fixed to the casing pipe with bolts and 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 borewells 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 boreholes/tubewells are being taken care through the concerned State/Central Government agencies.*
- (xii) *If a borewell/tubewell 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' borewell/ tubewell is properly filled upto the ground level. Random inspection of the abandoned wells is also to be done by the Executive of the concern agency/department. Information on all such data on the above are to be maintained in the District Collector/Block Development office of the State.*

Hon'ble Supreme Court has also directed that Chief Secretaries of all State Governments are to ensure that necessary steps are taken in this regard and wide publicity (through newspapers and national television channels) is given.

The matter shall come up for hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the first week of May,2010. and Government of Rajasthan would be required to intimate the action taken in this regard. Please intimate the action taken in this regard by first week of April,2010 so that Hon'ble Supreme Court may be apprised accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

EO
(Yaduvendra Mathur)
Secretary to the Govt.

Copy to the following for information and necessary action :

- ✓ 1. All Divisional Commissioners.
2. Chief Engineer (Hq.)/(Rural), PHED, Jaipur for issuing directions to all officers.
3. Chief Engineer, Ground Water Department, Jodhpur.

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Dy. Secretary to Govt