

The Times of India 28.07.2012

HUDA to file its response to groundwater ruling on July 31

GURGAON: After receiving flak from Punjab and Haryana high court for allowing groundwater to be wasted, by giving licences to private builders to build flats in an unhindered manner, the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) will file its reply before the court on July 31.

On July 16, while hearing a petition filed by a residents' group, the high court had ordered that [HUDA](#) should not issue new licences to developers in Gurgaon, unless they gave an undertaking that groundwater would not be used for construction work. The heads of HUDA and [Town and Country Planning](#) (TCP) department have to be present in court on July 31 when the case comes up for hearing.

The officers have been asked to furnish exact details about the total population, water demand, number of water connections and number of tubewells in the city.

HUDA, in its reply, has stated that no building plan shall be sanctioned unless the applicant assures the authority that underground water would not be used in construction. Moreover, from now on the builder will have to show the water source which will be consumed for construction purpose. HUDA has also listed how it plans to meet the current water shortfall. "At present, the irrigation department is supplying 90 cusecs of raw water into the Gurgaon water

supply channel and there is a shortfall of 77 cusecs. The irrigation department has been requested to increase the raw water supply from 90 cusecs to 130 cusecs in Gurgaon water supply (GWS) channel and an additional 52 cusecs in another canal called the NCR channel, so that the present demand can be met," said a HUDA official.

"To stop illegal borewells from being dug, the deputy commissioner has formed special teams with representatives from various departments. Guidelines in this regard are being prepared. To stop illegal borewell extraction, guidelines to formulate artificial recharge techniques for rainfall runoff from road side areas, institutes, parks and houses, in coordination with both the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and district administration are also being prepared," he added.