

THE GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE, 1985  
(Ordinance No. XXVII of 1985)

*An Ordinance to manage the ground water resources for agricultural production.*

**2. Definitions.-** In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

- (a) "aquifer" means a body of saturated soil at any depth below ground level that can store and transmit sufficient quantity of water to the wells;
- (d) "deep tubewell" means a tube well called as such operated by a submersible pump set or turbine pump coupled with a prime mover capable of pumping ground water when the pumped water level depth is more than 7 meters;
- (e) "deep set handpumped tubewell" means a handpumped well used for either irrigation or water supply where the pump valve is set below the surface and operated remotely by a pump rod operated from the surface and is capable of pumping ground water when the pumped water level depth is more than 8 meters;
- (i) "shallow tubewell" means a tubewell called as such operated by a centrifugal pump coupled with a prime mover but only capable of pumping water when the vertical distance between the centrifugal pump and the pumped water level depth is within 7 meters;
- (j) "static water level" means the depth from the ground level to the saturated water level beneath the ground surface where no pumping has taken place;
- (k) "suction lift handpumped tubewell" means handpumped well used for either irrigation or potable water supply when the pump valves are situated above ground level but is only capable of operation when the vertical distance between the pump valve and the pumped water level depth is within 8 meters;
- (l) "tubewell" means a deep tubewell, shallow tubewell, suction lift handpumped well or deep set handpumped well used for irrigation or water supply.

**5. Licence for tubewell.**-(1) No tubewell shall be installed in any place without a licence granted by the Thana Parishad.

(4) On receipt of the application for licence, the Thana Parishad shall direct the committee to hold a local enquiry and submit a report on the following points, namely:-

- (a) the aquifer condition of the soil where the tubewell is to be installed;
- (b) the distance of the nearest existing tubewell;
- (c) the area likely to be benefitted by the tubewell;
- (d) the likely effect on the existing tubewells including tubewells used for domestic purpose;
- (e) the suitability of the site for installation of the tubewell;
- (f) the conditions on which a licence, if any, may be granted.

(5) If, on considerations of the report of the Committee, the Thana Parishad is satisfied that the installation of the tubewell applied for-

- (a) will be beneficial to the areas for which it is to be installed, or
- (b) will not have any adverse effect upon the surrounding area, or
- (c) is otherwise feasible.

it may grant the licence applied for.

**10. Offences.**- Whoever contravenes any provision of this Ordinance or rules made thereunder shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two thousand taka.