



Madhya Pradesh to Table Bill to Stop Borewell Deaths

Why in News?

The Madhya Pradesh government is in the **process of drafting a law**, which is believed to be the **first of its kind in India, aimed at preventing fatalities resulting from open borewells**.

- In the last seven months, more than nine such incidents have been documented in MP.

Key Points

- The suggested legislation **will contain specific instructions on preventing such disasters**, how to respond if one occurs, and the process for assigning accountability.
- The bill **calls for identification of open / dry borewells and heavy penalties on those responsible for not filling** or plugging them and leaving them as an open hazard.
- If the borewell is on private land, the land owner will be fined. If it's government land, the **department and officer concerned will be penalised**.
 - The second stage **would be registration of a criminal case in case someone falls into an open borewell**. As of now, the accused is booked for negligence. Under the new law, the **accused will be booked under [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#) sections**.
- Apart from the land owner or government official, responsibility would also be fixed on the agency that drills the borewell.
- A system would be put in place for **citizens to inform government about open borewells so that preventive action can be taken..**

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