

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2041  
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000  
WATER MANAGEMENT  
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has recently submitted its report to the Government;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Commission;
- (c) whether the Commission has inter-alia recommended revision of the National Water Policy of 1987; and
- (d) if so, the action propose to be taken by the Government for the implementation of these recommendation ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) A statement is attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) An Implementation Cell in the National Water Development Agency has been constituted to examine recommendations of the National Commission and suggest to Union Government about the implementability or other-wise of such recommendations, as found implementable. An Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has been constituted for assisting the implementation cell in examining the recommendations.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) & (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2041 TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.3.2000 BY SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN REGARDING WATER MANAGEMENT.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan has submitted its report to the Government of India on 1.12.99. The main recommendations of the Commission are as under :

1. Continued government funding on enhanced scale for major projects, instilling financial discipline and prioritisation of projects for channelising the funds. Central assistance to major projects to be projectwise instead of being part of the overall plan assistance.
2. Need for well laid down compensation packages for all categories of project affected persons. While doing so, the Commission has emphasised that resettlement and rehabilitation projects be implemented by a functional authority with sufficient funds.
3. Need for amending the existing Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, enactment of a new Act in lieu of the existing River Board's Act, 1956, and also amending the existing Irrigation Acts which would facilitate participatory irrigation management.
4. Optimal utilisation of land and water should be aimed at in basins having surplus before considering interbasin transfers

(intrabasin transfer to be given first priority).

5. Setting up of River Basin Organisation for each Inter-State River having representation from the concerned State Governments, Water Users etc.

6. Substantial revision of present water rates to cover the entire operation & maintainance expenses, constituting Water Pricing Authority on the analogy of existing Energy Pricing Authorities.

7. For environment protection, the principle of `User Pays, Polluter Pays` need to be adopted for industrial uses.

8. Need for revising the National Water Policy (1987), need for making hydrological data for all basins freely available to all interested.

9. For flood control measures, Commission has recommended preparation of disaster preparedness plans, performance review of embankments and policy to regulate the land use in different flood zones. Existing flood forecasting system be strengthened and modernised using telemetry and satellite communication.

10. For optimal and integrated development of trans - Himalayan rivers, India should work for cooperation amongst the neighbouring countries. For this purpose, it has been suggested that National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in India, Water Resource Planning Organisations (WARPO) in Bangladesh and Energy Development Authority (EDA) in Nepal be designated to interact as a clearing house of information.

11. For hydropower development, Commission has recommended creation of hydropower development fund, promotion of joint ventures, tariff rationalisation etc.

12. For navigation development, the Commission has recommended that Inland Water Transport be treated as a nascent industry.

