

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3290
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
PRIVATISATION OF WATER RESOURCES
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Centre Privatising Water" appearing in the Statesman dated May 27, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government's draft on national water policy is encouraging privatisation of various water resources in the country; and
- (c) if so, the facts and the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The existing National Water Policy, which was adopted in 1987, is presently under revision / updation. The updated draft National Water Policy proposes that "private sector participation should be encouraged in the various aspects of planning, development and management of the water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible. Private sector participation may help in introducing innovative ideas, generating financial resources and introducing corporate management in improving service efficiency and accountability to users. Depending upon the specific situations, various combinations of private sector participation, in building, owning, operating, leasing and transferring of water resources facilities, may be considered." However, the updated draft National Water Policy, as currently under consideration, will need to be considered by the National Water Resources Council for its approval.