

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5756

ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000

WORLD WATER FORUM

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

- (a) whether India participated in the second World Water Forum meeting held in Netherlands recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the issues discussed at the meet;
- (d) the stand of the Government on the issue of resettlement and rehabilitation of oustees of big dams sites; and
- (e) the outcome of the above meet?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Water Council in collaboration with the Government of Netherlands hosted the Second World Water Forum meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, from 17-22nd March, 2000. A Ministerial Conference was also held on 21st and 22nd March, 2000.

The overall objective of the Second World Water Forum meeting was " To raise awareness among politicians, policy makers and public at large about next century issues and consequently promote policy measures and investment". The objective of the Ministerial Conference was "To translate the awareness and commitment of the forum in to concrete political commitment for implementing the vision and framework of action".

(c ) The issues discussed at the forum were divided into the following heads.,

(I) Regional Presentations: The World Water Vision is built on regional water visions, which were presented at the forum.

(II) Water use Presentations: The Water use presentations were based upon the sectors of economic and social life that use water, such as

(i) Water for food and rural development,

(ii) Inter-basin water transfer,

(iii) Water for people,

(iv) Rain water harvesting,

(v) Water for nature,

(vi) Ground Water,

(vii) National Sovereignty and International water panel,

(viii) Water and Tourism,

(ix) Financing Water infrastructure,

(III) Major Groups: The space under the major groups was given to organisations other than the Government such as NGOs, Gender and youth groups and Companies.

(IV) Special subjects: This category of presentations consisted of out of ordinary concerns, ideas related to water such as

- (i) Water and space,
- (ii) Water and Urban design,
- (iii) Water and Energy,
- (iv) Water use management,
- (v) Water and International law,
- (vi) Socio-political implications of water modelling,
- (vii) Water and Economics,
- (viii) Water and delta areas,
- (ix) Water and History,
- (x) Water and Mega cities,
- (xi) Water and Globalisation,
- (xii) Water and Large dam policy,
- (xiii) Water and national law,
- (xiv) Water and indigenous people, etc.

(d) Government of India took the stand that the oustees of big dam sites should be given proper re-settlement and rehabilitation package such that their living standards in the resettlement and rehabilitation sites are better than that in the submergence area.

(e) The outcome of the above meet was the "Ministerial declaration of The Hague on Water Security in 21st Century" which in brief contain that to achieve water security the following challenges will be met:-

- (i) Meeting basic needs of water and sanitation through a participatory process of water management,
- (ii) Securing the food supply particularly of the poor and vulnerable through the more efficient mobilisation and use, and the more equitable allocation of water for food production,
- (iii) Protecting eco systems through sustainable water resources management,
- (iv) Sharing water resources
- (v) To provide security from floods, droughts, pollution and other water related hazards,
- (vi) To manage water in a way that reflects its economic, social, environmental and cultural values for all its users,
- (vii) To ensure good governance, so that involvement of the public and the interest of all stakeholders are included in the management of the water resources,
- (viii) To support the UN System to reassess periodically the state of fresh water resources and related eco-systems and to report in the bi-annual world water development report as part of the overall monitoring of the Agenda 21.