

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
CONFERENCE ON ASIAN WATER INDUSTRY
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Fourth Water Asia International Conference and Exhibition of Asian Water Industry was held in New Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held in the conference and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the schemes, if any, formulated to overcome water crisis in the country ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION No 312 BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 15.04.2002 REGARDING CONFERENCE ON ASIAN WATER INDUSTRY.

The Fourth Water Asia International Conference and Exhibition on Asian Water Industry was held from 30th January to 1st February, 2002 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The Conference and Exhibition was organized by Interads Ltd. Conference & Exhibitions, New Delhi (a private sector agency) and co-sponsored by United Nations – Asian & Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), United States – Asia Environmental Partnership, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Central Pollution Control Board, Indian Environmental Association, Indian Water Works Association, Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) etc. Ministry of Water Resources co-sponsored it without financial assistance. 45 speakers made the technical presentation during the conference and about 3500 business visitors attended the event. The conference inter-alia covered the themes on water resources management, industrial water, waste water treatment and regulatory aspects. The organizers of the conference have not come up with any recommendations.

In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The time by which the schemes are to be completed is dependent on the priority assigned to such schemes by the State Governments and the resources made available for these schemes. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs.8480 crore to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP upto end of 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 2800 crore has been provided for the year 2002-03. Additional irrigation potential of over one million hectare upto the end of March, 2002 has been created under AIBP. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilised. An expenditure of Rs. 764.15 crore has been incurred during Ninth Five Year Plan under CAD programme and an outlay of Rs. 202 crore has been provided for the year 2002-2003. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial recharge of ground water. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.