

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6038

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WATER QUALITY AND MANAGEMENT

A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an international conference on water quality and management was held in Jaipur recently;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) the suggestions made by the experts regarding continuing depletion of ground water level and contamination of surface water; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government on the implementation of the suggestions made by experts in the conference?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The International Life Sciences Institute – India has organised an "International Conference on Water Quality Management South Asian Perspective" on April 11-12, 2002 at Jaipur. The conference inter-alia covered the themes on community approach to water quality, quality standards, monitoring and surveillance in South Asian Region; water quality modelling, waste water management, chemical challenge and microbiological challenges.

(b) The delegates in the conference adopted 'Jaipur Declaration of Water Quality Management Vision 2025' which suggests that in the next two decades, such projects should be planned and executed which would provide safe, adequate and sustained water supply to all people for drinking and personal hygiene. It lists the specific objectives to be achieved as an integral part of the national development plans and suggests the interim measures and medium term measures to be adopted to achieve these objectives.

(c) Regarding continuing depletion of ground water and contamination of surface water, suggestions made are; enactment of legislation to control ground water extraction, ground water recharge, multiple use of water by recycling and reuse, treatment of waste water and recovering the cost of the treatment from the consumers, penalisation of water pollution from all sources to recover treatment cost, encouraging pollution free and water saving technologies, putting up a water quality surveillance system, monitoring of water quality with active involvement of community, establishment of data banks, among others.

(d) Recommendations made in such Conferences are given due consideration by the Government in formulation of its policies and programmes. However, for regulation and control of ground water development and its management throughout the country, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has already been set up by Government of India in January, 1997. Similarly, a Water Quality Assessment Authority has also been set up in 2001 to standardize water quality monitoring system, to take measures to ensure proper treatment of waste water, to promote recycling and reuse of water, to draw action plan for quality improvements in water bodies and to promote rainwater harvesting, among others.