

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4411
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2003
MEETING OF WORLD WATER FORUM .
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Third World Water Forum (WWF) Meeting was held recently;
- (b) if so, whether any Government delegation or NGOs attended the meeting;
- (c) if so, the details of suggestions/recommendations made during the meeting;
- (d) whether the world water infrastructures especially those in developing countries are in a dire need for renewal, expansion and upgradation to meet the present and future needs for all; and
- (e) if so, the response of the Union Government alongwith steps taken by the Government during the Ninth Plan and proposed for Tenth Plan ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes , Sir.

(b) Representative of 167 countries as well as participants from UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, business and industry, youth organizations and media outlets etc. attended the Third World Water Forum Meeting held from 16th to 23rd March, 2003 at Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga, Japan. Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, Union Minister for Water Resources, led Indian delegation, which participated in the conference.

(c) During the conference, two Ministerial Declarations were adopted. The Irrigation Ministers meet adopted recommendations on 'Water, Food and Agriculture' on 21 March, 2003 at Shiga, Japan. The Ministers-in charge of Water Resources held discussions during 22-23 March, 2003 at Kyoto on five major theme namely Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water for Food and Rural Development, Water Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Conservation, Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management and Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing. Ministerial Declarations adopted during the conference are attached as Annexure I and II respectively.

(d) Irrigation Ministers Conference held on 21st March, 2003 at Shiga, Japan recommended to pursue efforts to develop water resources in a sustainable manner while improving the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. Ministerial Conference held on 23rd March, 2003 at Kyoto, Japan recommended, among other things, to arrange demand-driven management including participatory irrigation management, rehabilitation and modernization of existing water facilities, water-harvesting, water saving/drought-resistant crop varieties, water storage and dissemination of agricultural best practices.

(e) Through the concerned efforts of Central and State Governments, an irrigation potential of 99.76 million hectare (provisional) is expected to have been created by the end of 9th Five Year Plan with the construction of major, medium and minor irrigation projects. These projects provide 177 BCM of storage of rainwater. Another 207.7 BCM of storage is likely to be created through ongoing and proposed projects. Tanks and ponds have also been constructed to harness the water resources of the country. Water being a State Subject, water resources schemes including the schemes to overcome the shortage of water resources are formulated, planned, executed and funded by the concerned State Governments. 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 to provide central loan assistance. During the period from 1996-97 to 2001-2002 (9th Five Year Plan) an amount of Rs 8480.0288 crore has been released as CLA under AIBP and an amount of Rs. 3061.7026 crore has been released during 2002-2003 i.e. 10th Five Year Plan for major/medium/minor irrigation schemes in various states.

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 taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge of Ground Water" on pilot basis, under which 174 schemes have been approved in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. The scheme has been proposed to be extended during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs. 150 Crore. As a long term measure, National perspective Plan for Water Resources Development has been formulated which envisages inter-linking of rivers by

transferring of water from surplus basins/areas to water deficit basins/areas.

Water Resources Consolidation Project (WRCP) with World Bank Assistance was in progress during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the States of Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Orissa and World Bank aided Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project (Phase-II) has also been taken up during the 9th Plan. Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project, Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project, with World Bank Assistance and K.C. Canal Modernisation Project, Andhra Pradesh with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) have also been taken up in the 10th Five Year Plan for modernisation/renovation of selected irrigation projects.

Irrigated area can be increased through timely renovation and modernization of the irrigation and drainage systems, including reclamation of waterlogged and salinised irrigated lands. The Planning Commission in its mid-term review of the Ninth Five year Plan expressed the views that these options need be considered especially in the context of the present resources constraints. As per assessment of the Planning Commission about 21 m.ha of irrigated area from major and medium projects from pre-independent period and those completed 25 years ago require renovation/upgradation/restoration. During the 9th and 10th Plan period 502 & 490 projects respectively are under execution [including Major & Medium, Extension, Renovation & Modernisation (ERM) projects].

ANNEXURE I

Ministerial Recommendation

Adopted by the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture Third World Water Forum Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan, 21 March 2003

We, Ministers responsible for water for food and agriculture and the representatives of international organizations assembled at the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, Japan on 21 March 2003, at the invitation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations.

We assert herein our common recognition to implement the recommendations adopted at the World Food Summit in Rome, the declaration of the First World Water Forum in Morocco, and the ministerial declaration of the Second World Water Forum in The Hague, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

We recognize that water is essential for broad-based agriculture and rural development in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals to improve food security and poverty alleviation.

Three challenges

(Food security and poverty alleviation)

1. To improve the development and management of water for agriculture to meet the growing and changing demand for food, alleviate poverty and sustain economic growth.

(Sustainable water use)

2. To balance the use and development of water with the available water resources; to preserve water quality in order to achieve sustainable patterns of water use through integrated approaches linking water management with the conservation and sustenance of ecosystems; and to maintain the integrity of land and water systems upon which agricultural production depends.

(Partnership)

3. To enhance the cooperation and partnership of all stakeholders in all aspects of agriculture water use, development and management; to increase access to water resources; to improve the productivity of rainfed and irrigated farming systems; and to equitably share benefits and risks.

Basic recognition

4. We recall that in the latter half of the 20th century, significant public and private investment in agriculture water development has resulted in much needed productivity gains and has narrowed food security gaps and has contributed to poverty alleviation.

5. We recognize that agricultural production and its water uses are influenced by agro-climatic zones that have resulted in a diverse array of agricultural practice and agricultural economy in the World.

6. We recognize that agricultural water is not only vital for food production, but also provides a broad spectrum of services related to society, culture and the environment. It is instrumental in improving economic and social benefits to vulnerable people, particularly women and children. These multiple roles and values of agricultural water must be recognized, evaluated and taken into account for the development and management of water resources.

7. We recognize that the development and management of agricultural water resources needs to take into account a variety of other uses, including water supply for urban and rural communities, industry, hydroelectric power generation, navigation, recreation, tourism and fisheries, and conserving ecosystems.

8. We note that in some regions agricultural water demand and use exceed the long term rates of resource replenishment and may

require the development of alternative water sources, while looking for innovative means and appropriate actions to achieve sustainable water resource management. In other regions, water resource availability offers scope for further development.

9. We emphasize that achieving the objectives of food security and poverty alleviation for an increasing world population will require the mobilization of all sources of financing and increased investment in water-related infrastructure, research and development in order to sustain productivity gains and create new opportunities for the sustainable development and integrated management of water resources.

Plan of concrete actions

10. We continue to pursue efforts to develop water resources in a sustainable manner while improving the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of Irrigation schemes.

11. We reaffirm our determination and commitment for progressive modernization and improvement of agricultural water use effecting transition of emphasis from supply-to demand-driven agricultural water management.

12. We are determined to increase substantially agricultural water productivity through participatory approaches, appropriate regulations and cost-recovery mechanisms, development and dissemination of research findings, capacity-building and institutional reforms, which are adapted to local climatic, environmental and socio-economic conditions.

13. We will promote improved governance of agricultural water use through integrated water resources management including non-agricultural water use. This process should be efficient and equitable. It would involve the active participation of all user groups, including women and the poor in local water resources settings.

14. We will give due consideration to the environmental aspects in respect of agricultural water use, and seek to maintain productive ecosystems through progressive and innovative approaches to sustainable use of water. An important tool in this process would be environmental impact assessment.

15. We will undertake research and development, including traditional knowledge, to improve the management and availability of limited water resources in water-scarce areas, through improved crops and development of new and non-conventional sources of water for agriculture.

16. We will continue to make efforts to foster international cooperation and partnerships between and among developed and developing countries, through financial and technical assistance and knowledge, and to encourage private sector involvement in agricultural water development and management.

ANNEXURE II

The 3rd World Water Forum
Ministerial Declaration
Message from the Lake Biwa and Yodo River Basin

23 March 2003

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, assembled in Kyoto, Japan on 22-23 March 2003, on the occasion of the 3rd World Water Forum. Building upon the outcomes of the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and the United Nations Secretary General's Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity (WEHAB) initiatives as well as other water-related events, we assert our common resolve to implement the appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the internationally agreed targets and goals including the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Taking note of the thematic and regional statements and recommendations from the 3rd World Water Forum, we declare the following:

[General Policy]

1. Water is a driving force for sustainable development including environmental integrity, and the eradication of poverty and hunger, indispensable for human health and welfare. Prioritizing water issues is an urgent global requirement. Each country has the primary responsibility to act. The international community as well as international and regional organizations should support this. Empowerment of local authorities and communities should be promoted by governments with due regard to the poor and gender.

2. Whilst efforts being undertaken so far on water resources development and management should be continued and strengthened, we recognize that good governance, capacity building and financing are of the utmost importance to succeed in our efforts. In this context, we will promote integrated water resources management.

3. In managing water, we should ensure good governance with a stronger focus on household and neighborhood community-based approaches by addressing equity in sharing benefits, with due regard to pro-poor and gender perspectives in water policies. We should further promote the participation of all stakeholders, and ensure transparency and accountability in all actions.

4. We are committed, in the long term, to fortify the capacity of the people and institutions with technical and other assistance from the international community. This must include, among others, their ability to measure and monitor performance, to share innovative approaches, best practices, information, knowledge and experiences relevant to local conditions.

5. Addressing the financial needs is a task for all of us. We must act to create an environment conducive to facilitating investment. We should identify priorities on water issues and reflect them accordingly in our national development plans/sustainable development strategies including Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). Funds should be raised by adopting cost recovery approaches which suit local climatic, environmental and social conditions and the 'polluter-pays' principle, with due consideration to the poor. All sources of financing, both public and private, national and international, must be mobilized and used in the most efficient and effective way. We take note of the report of the World Panel on Financing Water Infrastructure.

6. We should explore the full range of financing arrangements including private sector participation in line with our national policies and priorities. We will identify and develop new mechanisms of public-private partnerships for the different actors involved, while ensuring the necessary public control and legal frameworks to protect the public interests, with a particular emphasis on protecting the interests of the poor.

7. As water situations differ from region to region, we will support established regional and sub-regional efforts such as the vision of the African Ministerial Conference on Water (AMCOW) to facilitate the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the implementation of the program of action in favor of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Recognizing the uniquely fragile nature of water resources in small island developing states, we support specific programs of collaboration such as the Caribbean Pacific Joint Program for Action on Water and Climate in Small Island Countries.

8. We reaffirm the necessity for countries to better coordinate monitoring and assessment systems at local, basin and national levels, with development of relevant national indicators where appropriate. We call upon the United Nations, inter alia through the Commission on Sustainable Development, to take a leading role and cooperate with other organizations involved in the water sector to work in a transparent and cooperative way. We welcome the willingness of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other organizations to periodically inform the international community of aid activities in water-related areas. Ways to track progress on water issues may be usefully explored on the basis of existing facilities and relying upon information from countries and relevant UN agencies, regional development banks and other stakeholders, including civil society organizations.

9. We welcome the proposal to establish a new network of websites to follow up the Portfolio of Water Actions that will publicize actions planned and taken on water-related issues by countries and international organizations in order to share information and promote cooperation.

[Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing]

10. As we aim to develop integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005, we will assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, by providing tools and further required assistance. In this context, among others, we encourage regional development banks to take a facilitating role. To this end, we invite all stakeholders, including private donors and civil society organizations, concerned to participate in this process.

11. Recognizing that cooperation between riparian states on transboundary and/or boundary watercourses contributes to sustainable water management and mutual benefits, we encourage all those states to promote such cooperation.

12. We will further encourage scientific research on predicting and monitoring the global water cycle, including the effect of climate change, and develop information systems that will enable the sharing of such valuable data worldwide.

13. We will promote measures for reducing losses from distribution systems and other water demand management measures as a cost-effective way of meeting demand.

14. We will endeavor to develop and deploy non-conventional water resources by promoting innovative and environmentally sound technologies, such as the desalination of seawater, water recycling and water harvesting.

15. We recognize the role of hydropower as one of the renewable and clean energy sources, and that its potential should be realized in an environmentally sustainable and socially equitable manner.

[Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation]

16. Achieving the target established in the MDGs to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 and that established in the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 requires an enormous amount of investment in water supply and sanitation. We call on each country to develop strategies to achieve these objectives. We will redouble our collective efforts to mobilize financial and technical resources, both public and private.

17. We will address water supply and sanitation in urban and rural areas in ways suitable for the respective local conditions and management capacities, with a view to achieving short-term improvement of water and sanitation services as well as cost-effective

infrastructure investments and sound management and maintenance over time. In so doing, we will enhance poor people's access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

18. While basic hygiene practices starting from hand washing at the household level should be encouraged, intensified efforts should also be launched to promote technical breakthroughs, especially the development and practical applications of efficient and low-cost technologies tailored to daily life for the provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation. We encourage studies for innovative technologies to be locally owned.

[Water for Food and Rural Development]

19. Water is essential for broad based agricultural production and rural development in order to improve food security and eradicate poverty. It should continuously contribute to a variety of roles including food production, economic growth and environmental sustainability. We are concerned with increasing pressure on the limited fresh water resources and on the environment. Noting that a diverse array of agricultural practices and agricultural economies has evolved in the world, we should make every effort to reduce unsustainable water management and improve the efficiency of agricultural water use.

20. Through effective and equitable water use and management, and extending irrigation in areas of need, we will promote neighborhood community based development, which should result in income-generating activities and opportunities and contribute to poverty eradication in rural areas.

21. We encourage innovative and strategic investment, research and development and international cooperation for the progressive improvement of agricultural water management, by such means as demand-driven management including participatory irrigation management, rehabilitation and modernization of existing water facilities, water-harvesting, water-saving/drought-resistant crop varieties, water storage and dissemination of agricultural best practices.

22. Inland fisheries being a major source of food, freshwater fish production should be addressed through intensified efforts to improve water quality and quantity in rivers and protection or restoration of breeding areas.

[Water Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Conservation]

23. We recognize the need to intensify water pollution prevention in order to reduce hazards to health and the environment and to protect ecosystems, including control of invasive species. We recognize traditional water knowledge and will promote the awareness of positive and negative impacts of human activities on watersheds for the entire water cycle through public information and education, including for children, in order to avoid pollution and unsustainable use of water resources.

24. To ensure a sustainable water supply of good quality, we should protect and use in a sustainable manner the ecosystems that naturally capture, filter, store, and release water, such as rivers, wetlands, forests, and soils.

25. We urge countries to review and, when necessary, to establish appropriate legislative frameworks for the protection and sustainable use of water resources and for water pollution prevention.

26. In view of the rapid degradation of watersheds and forests, we will concentrate our efforts to combat deforestation, desertification and land degradation through programs to promote greening, sustainable forest management, the restoration of degraded lands and wetlands, and the conservation of biodiversity.

[Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management]

27. The growing severity of the impacts of floods and droughts highlights the need for a comprehensive approach that includes strengthened structural measures such as reservoirs and dikes and also non-structural measures such as land-use regulation and guidance, disaster forecasting and warning systems and national risk management systems, in harmony with the environment and different water uses, including inland waterway navigation.

28. We will cooperate to minimize damage caused by disasters through enhancing the sharing and exchange, where appropriate, of data, information, knowledge and experiences at the international level. We encourage the continuation of collaboration between scientists, water managers, and relevant stakeholders to reduce vulnerability and make the best prediction and forecasting tools available to water managers.

29. Finally, we thank the Government and people of Japan for hosting this Ministerial Conference and the Forum.