

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:613
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
WATER MANAGEMENT
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has pointed out that it is extremely essential to concentrate on conservation management of water resources;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether a draft bill on ground water use had been circulated to the States for their comments;
- (d) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and
- (e) the time by which the Government propose to provide guidelines on National Water Policy?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Govt. of India had recognized the need for conservation and management of water resources and had given due emphasis to these aspects in National Water Policy, 1987. The policy provides various measures for better water management and conservation such as:

- (i) Participation of farmers in the management of irrigation system.
 - (ii) Modernisation and rehabilitation of the irrigation system.
 - (iii) Conservation of water by increasing the efficiency of utilisation, and
 - (iv) Conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources. Various Central and State agencies are engaged in the conservation and management of ground water resources which includes recharging of ground water and rain water harvesting as well as conjunctive use of surface and ground water for optimal development and management of the water resources.
- (c) Yes Sir, the Union Government has circulated a Model Bill on control and regulation of ground water to the States and Union Territories.
- (d) Only the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra have enacted the legislation.
- (e) Following guidelines have been issued on National Water Policy:-
- (i) Guidelines for the preparations of River Basin Master Plan-1990.
 - (ii) Integration of Drinking Water Supply System – 1991
 - (iii) Planning Conjunctive Use of Surface and Ground Water in Irrigation Projects-1994.
 - (iv) Submission, Appraisal and Clearance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects-1996.
 - (v) Setting up a Human Resources Development Board to go into formulation of training programme for the in – service personnel – 1998.
 - (vi) Environmental Monitoring of Water Resources Projects- 1998.
 - (vii) Various Aspects related to Dam Safety –22 in numbers.

