

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2780
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
WATER MANAGEMENT
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate a long term strategy for water management with the participation of the State Governments as well as Private Sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) A Statement is enclosed at Annex – I.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2780 REGARDING WATER MANAGEMENT, TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 9.8.2000.

The National Water Policy adopted in 1987, as a strategy, lays stress on conservation of the resources and augmentation of the availability of water by adopting measures for maximizing retention and minimizing losses. Accordingly, the water resources projects are planned on the basis of an overall plan for the drainage basin as a whole or for a sub-basin and the individual development project are formulated by the States within the framework of such an overall plan. To meet the above objective appropriate river basin organizations have been envisaged. The policy also lays emphasis on making water available to the water short areas by transfer from one river basin to another based on a national perspective.

Concerted thrust is envisaged to ensure that the irrigation potential created is fully utilized. For this purpose the command Area Development Programme has been launched by the Government. The policy also envisages involving farmers in various aspects of management of irrigation systems particularly in water distribution and collection of water rates. Emphasis has also been laid on the efficiency of utilization in all the diverse uses of water by encouraging recycling and reuse and bringing conservation consciousness through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.

Based on the above strategy for water management the State Governments are managing the water resources within their respective territories.