

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2384
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
WATER CHARGES FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSE
Sippiparai Shri A. Ravichandran

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether variable rates are being charged in various States from the farmers for the use of underground water for agricultural purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has constituted an expert Committee to rationalise the water charged for agricultural purposes in various parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a) & (b) As per information available, variable rates are being charged by some States for water supply from State owned tubewells for agricultural purpose.
- (c) & (d) Ministry of Water Resources has not constituted the 'Expert Committee to rationalize the water charges for agricultural purposes in various parts of the country'. However, the Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group headed by Member, Planning Commission on 'Ground Water Management and Ownership'. The Expert Group has inter-alia suggested measures for creating incentives for more efficient energy and water use.