

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2465
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
USE OF SEA WATER FOR IRRIGATION
J Helen Davidson

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiatives to use sea water for irrigation purposes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the future plan of the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (d) Several scientific reports have indicated about the possibility of use of sea water for various purposes including that for irrigation. However, due to relatively higher costs, there has been very limited use of sea water for drinking water purposes. The National Water Policy states that `for effective and economical management of our water resources, the frontiers of knowledge need to be pushed forward in the several directions by intensifying research efforts in various areas`. The areas for intensive research listed in the National Water Policy, inter-alia, include `use of sea water resources`. In pursuance of the directions of the Hon`ble Supreme Court, the Ministry of Science and Technology has constituted a Committee of Technical Experts under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology. The task of the Committee, inter-alia, includes scientific research on a war footing to find out inexpensive methods of converting saline water into fresh water.