

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:679  
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010  
LEVY OF FEE FOR WATER  
Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Planning Commission has desired that user charges be levied for the use of water in the agriculture sector, as reported in the media; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind this move?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI V.NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): The National Water Policy (NWP) 2002 States that

"There is, therefore, a need to ensure that the water charges for various uses should be fixed in such a way that they cover at least the operation and maintenance charges of providing the service initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently".

In line with the NWP, the Planning Commission is of the view that water charges for irrigation are at present inadequate to cover even the operation and maintenance cost of irrigation infrastructure. They should be raised progressively so that financial position of the irrigation sector is made viable at least on operation and maintenance. Irrigation being a state subject, it is for the State/UT Governments concerned to decide about raising the water charges.