

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4499
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2010
INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL BODIES IN URBAN DRINKING WATER SECTOR
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to increase involvement of local bodies in urban drinking water sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether no comprehensive studies, organised data sources, or literature surveys exists on the economic value of the water sector in India;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to create institutional framework to empower people to monitor and discipline service providers as well as raise their voice in policy making; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

- (a): Yes, Madam. The list of functions which the States may devolve to the Urban Local Bodies under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act includes drinking water.
- (b): Under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, the Urban Local Bodies are expected to carry out responsibilities related to urban planning including town planning; regulation of land-use and construction of buildings; planning for economic and social development; roads and bridges; water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes; public health, sanitation conservancy and solid waste management; fire services; slum improvement and upgradation; urban poverty alleviation; public amenities including street lighting, parking lots, bus stops and public convenience; and regulation for slaughter houses and tanneries etc., as it is expected that these services are better delivered at local level.
- (c) : Does not arise.
- (d) : Ministry of Urban Development has not conducted any study on the economic value of water in India.
- (e) : Does not arise.
- (f) : The Ministry of Urban Development has formulated Service Level Benchmarks for the urban water supply sector with the intention of emphasising service delivery outcomes, enforcing accountability and facilitating performance monitoring.
- (g) : The indicators in respect of the water supply sector include coverage of water supply connections; per capita supply of water; continuity of water supply, quality of water supplied, efficiency in redressal of customer complaints etc. Benchmark values have been specified for each of the indicators.