

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:113

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether steps have been taken by the Union Government for protection, regulation and management of water resources in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds allocated and utilised for the purpose during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated a National Water Policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 113 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 03.03.2011 REGARDING NATIONAL WATER POLICY

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Water being a State subject, all activities related to protection, regulation and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States. However, with a view to encouraging and assisting the State Governments in this effort, Government of India has undertaken the following protection and regulatory measures:

(i) A "Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA)" has been established under Environmental Protection Act.

(ii) Government of India has constituted National Ganga River Basin Authority for addressing the problems of pollution of river Ganga.

(iii) A draft Model Bill to regulate and control the development and management of ground water has been circulated to the States and Union Territories. 11 States / Union Territories namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal have enacted the legislation in this regard.

(iv) The Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted under Environmental Protection Act 2005. CGWA has directed the Chief Secretaries of the concerned States to take all measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the over-exploited areas falling under their jurisdiction and ensure inclusion of roof top rain water harvesting in the building bye-laws.

(v) A model Bill for Participatory Irrigation Management has also been drafted and circulated to all States. 15 States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh have either enacted exclusive legislation or amended their Irrigation Acts for involvement of farmers in irrigation management.

(vi) Government of India is implementing the National Lake Conservation Plan for conservation and management of polluted and degraded lakes in urban and semi-urban areas located in various States. National River Conservation Programme is also being implemented by Government of India for conservation and management of polluted rivers.

Further, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments for sustainable development and management of water resources through various programmes/schemes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Command Area Development & Water Management and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. Government of India also promotes artificial recharge to ground water. As per the information available, the overall outlay for XI Plan for irrigation, command area development, and flood control Sectors under State Plan and Central Plan are Rs.1,82,050 crore and Rs.50,261 crore respectively. Outlays for 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 & 2010-11 are respectively Rs.38630.25 crore, Rs.47794.79 crore, Rs.46003.73 crore & Rs.52494.28 crore and actual expenditures during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are respectively Rs.39833.12 crore and Rs.41030.25 crore.

(c) & (d) The National Water Policy, 2002 has been adopted by the National Water Resources Council in April 2002. The salient features of National Water Policy are annexed.

