GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:471
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012
FLOOD CONTROL IN GODAVARI
Gandhi Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Water Policy, 2002;

(b) whether the `National Policy on Flood Control` is covered under the National Water Policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that in Maharashtra, water of Godavari river crosses flood line every year;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government has constituted any expert committee to study Flood Control in Godavari; and

(f) if so, the details of its recommendations alongwith the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a) The Salient Features of the National Water Policy, 2002 are at Annexure-I.

(b)&(c) There is no separate "National Policy on Flood Control". However provisions relating to Flood Control and Management are included in the National Water Policy, 2002. These provisions are given at Annexure-II.

(d) As per information available in Central Water Commission (CWC), the river Godavari crossed Danger Level at Kopergoan in Ahmednagar District during 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008. Godavari crossed Danger level at Gangakhed in Parbhani District of Maharashtra during 2006 and at Nanded in Nanded District during 2005 and 2006.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Annexure - I

(Annexure referred in reply to the Unstarred Question No.471 to be answered on 15.3.2012 in the Lok Sabha regarding Flood Control in Godavari.)

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE NATIONAL WATER POLICY, 2002

The National Water Policy − 2002 was adopted by the National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India in its 5th meeting held on 1st April, 2002. The Salient features of National Water Policy − 2002 are as follows:

Water is a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. Planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by national perspectives.

A well developed information system for water related data at national/state level should be established with a net-work of data banks and data bases integrating and strengthening the existing central and state level agencies.

Water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent.

Non-conventional methods for utilization of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge of ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting, including roof-top rainwater harvesting, need to be practiced to further increase the utilizable water resources. Promotion of frontier research and development, in a focused manner, for these techniques is necessary.

Water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit. Appropriate river basin

organizations should be established for the planned development and management of the river basins.

Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfer from one river basin to another, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.

Planning of water resources development projects should, as far as possible, be for multi-purpose with an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach having regard to human and ecological aspects including those of disadvantaged sections of the society.

In the allocation of water, first priority should be given for drinking water, followed by irrigation, hydro-power, ecology, agro-industries and non-agricultural industries, navigation and other uses, in that order.

The exploitation of groundwater should be regulated with reference to recharge possibilities and consideration of social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over- exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented.

Adequate emphasis needs to be given to the physical and financial sustainability of existing water resources facilities. There is need to ensure that the water charges for various uses should be fixed such as to cover at least the operation and maintenance charges initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently.

Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach by involving users and other stakeholders alongwith various governmental agencies, in an effective and decisive manner.

Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible.

Both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology.

Efficiency of utilization should be improved in all the diverse uses of water and conservation consciousness promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.

Land erosion by sea or river should be minimized by suitable cost-effective measures. Indiscriminate occupation of, and economic activity in coastal areas and flood plain zones should be regulated.

Needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority in the planning of project for development of water resources. These areas should be made less vulnerable through various measures.

The water sharing / distribution amongst the states should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin.

Training and research efforts should be intensified as an integral part of water resources development.

Annexure − II

(Annexure referred in reply to the Unstarred Question No.471 to be answered on 15.3.2012 in the Lok Sabha regarding Flood Control in Godavari.)

Flood Control and Management

(i) There should be a master plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin.

(ii) Adequate flood-cushion should be provided in water storage projects, wherever feasible, to facilitate better flood management. In highly flood prone areas, flood control should be given overriding consideration in reservoir regulation policy even at the cost of sacrificing some irrigation or power benefits.

(iii) While physical flood protection works like embankments and dykes will continue to be necessary, increased emphasis should be laid on non-structural measures such as flood forecasting and warning, flood plain zoning and flood proofing for the minimisation of losses and to reduce the recurring expenditure on flood relief.

(iv) There should be strict regulation of settlements and economic activity in the flood plain zones along with flood proofing, to minimise the loss of life and property on account of floods.

(v) The flood forecasting activities should be modernised, value added and extended to other uncovered areas. Inflow forecasting to reservoirs should be instituted for their effective regulation.