

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1512  
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2012  
RIGHT TO WATER  
Roy Shri Arjun;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the citizens of the country have a right to utilize water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the role of the Government is limited to that of a manager in the process of flow of water from natural sources to the sources for human consumption;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the role of the Government in forming the Draft National Water Policy, 2012?

**Answer**

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

- (a) & (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts have interpreted that right to drinking water is implied in the right to life – a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- (c) & (d) As interpreted by Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts, the Government has the responsibility under public trust doctrine in management of water resources.
- (e) The Ministry of Water Resources has prepared Draft National Water Policy, 2012 and invited comments thereon. The National Water Resources Council, on the recommendation of National Water Board, adopts National Water Policy.