

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4421  
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012  
STRATEGIC RESERVE OF WATER  
Jardosh Smt. Darshana Vikram

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to maintain a strategic reserve of water resources to provide safe drinking water keeping in view the future demand of rising population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has communicated or is in the process to issue an advisory to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The National Water Policy 2002 stipulates that adequate safe drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and rural areas. Irrigation and multi-purpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water. Drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water.

(c) & (d) The National Water Policy, 2002, inter alia, asks all State Governments to formulate State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan to achieve the desired objectives.