

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4571
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
SINGLE ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRY FOR WATER
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether various aspects of `water` are dealt with by different Ministries, i.e. irrigation and ground water by Water Resources, rural drinking water by Drinking Water and Sanitation, urban drinking water by Urban Development, water pollution by Environment and Forests and micro irrigation by Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be advisable to put `water` under a single administrative Ministry, as the division of authority often leads to dilution of responsibility and inefficient coordination;

(d) if so, whether it would be desirable that `water` is included in the Union or Concurrent List; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The activities in respect of water resources development and management dealt with by various Ministries as per Government of India Allocation of Business Rules are Annexed.

(c) The Planning Commission had examined the issue of bringing water under a single administrative Ministry. However, keeping in view, the responsibilities already vested with the Ministry of Water Resources and Inter-Ministerial coordination machineries is already in position, the Planning Commission was of the view that the existing administrative arrangements in regard to the water sector need not be disturbed for the present.

(d) & (e) The proposal to bring water in the Union / Concurrent List was examined by the two Commissions on Centre-State Relations chaired by Justice R.S. Sarkaria and Justice M.M. Punchhi respectively. The said proposal did not find favour with either of the two Commissions.