

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1934

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

NATIONAL WATER FRAMEWORK ACT

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Kumar Shri P.;Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to frame a new National Water Framework Act with guiding principles on water laws;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has set up another panel to amend the Rivers Board Act to facilitate holistic development of water resources with a river basin as a unit and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to amend the Inter-State River Disputes Act to set up a single tribunal with several benches for faster disposal of disputes in a time bound manner; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. The Draft National Water Policy (2012), inter-alia, recommends framing of a broad over-arching national legal framework of general principles on water to lead the way for essential legislation on water governance in every State of the Union and devolution of necessary authority to the lower tiers of government to deal with the local water situation.

Ministry of Water Resources has constituted Drafting Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh to draft Water Framework Law keeping in view the provisions in the National Water Policy, Report of the Sub-Committee on Planning Commission Working Group on Water Governance and need of water resources sector in the country.

(c) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Water Resources has set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice T.S. Doabia, former Judge, M.P and J&K High Court to study the activities required for optimal development of Water Resources of river basins and changes required in the existing River Boards Act, 1956 for achievement of the same.

(d) & (e) Yes, Madam. The proposal of a single tribunal for faster disposal of all Inter State River Water Disputes is under process. The proposal inter-alia prescribes time limits for disposal of matters referred to the Tribunal.