

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1977
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether concerned with the deficient monsoons, the Government has already put in motion contingency measures for the optimum utilisation of available water prioritising segments like agriculture, rural and urban water supply and industry in that order;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would consider charging more for water sourced from the ground by bottled water/beverage companies to subsidise public water supplies to rural and urban poor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether to sustain huge investment in water conservation, the Government would consider hiking the water tariff for irrigation and urban water supply systems and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) Keeping in view the possibility of delay in the onset of monsoon and also uneven spatial distribution which may result in some areas getting less than normal rainfall, the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India issued an advisory on 9th July 2012 to the States/ Union Territories requesting them inter-alia to make judicious use of available water in the reservoirs and to use ground water to meet the situation to the extent necessary.
- (c) & (d) It is within the competence of State Governments to fix appropriate charges for water sourced from the ground by bottled water / beverage companies.
- (e) Water being a State subject, the State Governments have the competence to consider hiking the water tariff for irrigation and urban water supply systems.